THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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What's News

Business & Finance

Companies are finding crafty ways to make their bottom lines look better, and a measure of the likelihood of earnings manipulation is at its highest level in about 40 years. **A1**

◆ **Trian co-founder** and investment chief Garden is stepping down, according to people familiar with the matter, amid a reshuffle of the activist investor's top ranks. **B1**

◆ **Some small businesses** are finding it more difficult to get new loans or have had their existing credit lines cut as banks tighten lending standards. **B1**

◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** notched gains, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow industrials advancing 1%, 1.3% and 0.5%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **Vanguard Group was** fined and censured by Finra for errors that appeared in more than eight million account statements. **B1**

◆ **Macy's cut** its full-year outlook for sales and profit. Discount retailer Dollar General also lowered its financial targets for the year. **B1**

◆ **Apple's savings account**, a partnership with Goldman, launched in April to great fanfare. Some customers say it has been hard to get their money out. **B1**

◆ **Boeing delayed** a long-awaited astronaut flight after identifying new safety issues on its spacecraft for such missions. **B3**

◆ **EU regulators plan** to subject Twitter to a stress test to determine how well it complies with Europe's new digital-content law. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The Senate passed** wide-ranging legislation that suspends the debt ceiling while cutting federal spending, backing a bipartisan deal struck by Biden and McCarthy to avert a U.S. default and sending the measure to the president's desk. **A1**

◆ **The nation's top** auto-safety regulator is failing to meet its own targets for completing investigations into defects that could put drivers at risk, a government audit found. **A1**

◆ **Pressure is growing** on NATO to give Ukraine explicit security guarantees and a path to membership as alliance leaders prepare for a summit in Lithuania next month. **A8**

◆ **The Supreme Court** ruled that a building-materials company could sue a union it claimed tried to spoil its concrete and damage its trucks during a strike, without waiting for the NLRB to resolve allegations between labor and management. **A2**

◆ **Arizona paused** new approvals on subdivision development in some of Phoenix's suburban areas after a report determined that the metropolis doesn't have enough water to meet estimated demand over the next 100 years. **A2**

◆ **Biden plans** to pick Dr. Mandy Cohen, a former North Carolina health secretary, to lead the CDC, according to people familiar with the planning. **A2**

◆ **Medicare plans** to widen coverage of Alzheimer's drugs that could win full approval as soon as this summer. **A3**

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A Mother Grieves After Russian Missile Strike on Kyiv

VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

MOURNING: A woman looks at the body of her daughter, who, along with two other people, was killed during a Russian missile attack on Ukraine's capital Thursday. The missiles were shot down, but falling debris struck the victims. **A8**

Companies Find Crafty Ways To Engineer Larger Profits

BY BEN FOLDY

Business slowed last year for Google's parent, Alphabet. The tech giant still beat earnings expectations in this year's first quarter, in part because it said that its computer servers would last longer than expected.

The shift reduced its depreciation expense by nearly $1 billion and helped push per-share earnings ahead of analysts' estimates.

Google isn't alone in boosting its earnings in surprising ways. When business slows, companies often try to make their numbers look better. That appears to be happening now, from tech giants to used-car dealers.

A spokeswoman for Google declined to comment.

More companies are beating analysts' expectations and by bigger amounts. Businesses' nontraditional earnings metrics are beating reported earnings by a lot more than last year, and a measure of the likelihood of earnings manipulation is at its highest level in about 40 years.

Companies have long engaged in earnings management, by which executives use the flexibility in accounting rules to improve reported earnings per share.

The moves, many of which are allowed under accounting rules, nonetheless have detractors. In a letter to investors this year, Warren Buffett called the practice "one of the shames of capitalism."

One way companies are trying to make their results look better is to provide numbers that don't adhere to accounting standards—what are often referred to as pro forma measures—alongside the official data.

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Deal On Debt Heads to Biden's Desk

Senate's bipartisan 63-36 vote advances bill that caps spending, resolves default fear

WASHINGTON—The Senate passed wide-ranging legislation Thursday that suspends the $31.4 trillion debt ceiling while cutting federal spending, backing a bipartisan deal

By Siobhan Hughes, Lindsay Wise and David Harrison

struck by President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to avert an unprecedented U.S. default.

The 63-36 vote reflected support from both Democrats and Republicans, with backers saying the need to raise the nation's borrowing limit outweighed concerns about provisions related to military and domestic spending and energy policy, among other contentious issues.

The measure now goes to Biden for his signature with several days to spare before June 5, when the Treasury Department has said that the government will run out of money to pay all of its bills.

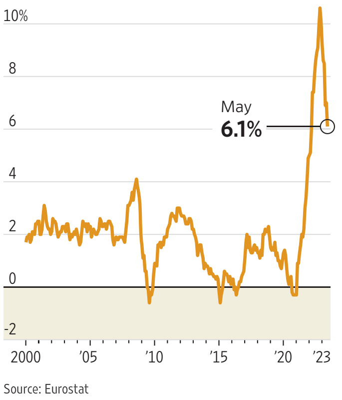
Biden thanked Senate leaders for the quick work and said he would sign the bill as soon as he can. "No one gets everything they want in a negotiation, but make no mistake: This bipartisan agree-

Please turn to page A4

◆ McCarthy defies odds with deal........ A4

Price Increases Ease in Europe

Inflation in the eurozone declined to a 15-month low in May. Though unlikely to deter the European Central Bank from increasing rates at its June 15 policy meeting, the data open a window for a possible pause in the rate increases. **A8**



Steaks Are High And About to Get Higher

Ranchers are producing less beef because of drought, rising costs

BY PATRICK THOMAS

Burgers and steaks, already near record-level prices, are set to get more expensive.

The culprit is a rapidly shrinking supply of cattle. Years of persistent drought conditions, which make cattle more expensive to raise, pandemic disruptions and widespread cost increases have prompted ranchers to sell off livestock, bringing the number of cattle in the U.S. to its lowest level in nearly a decade. U.S. beef production is on track to drop by more than 2 billion pounds in 2024, the biggest annual decline since 1979, according to Agriculture Department data.

With costs rising for nearly every aspect of raising cattle, ranchers say they are running out of reasons to replace the livestock they send to slaughter, let alone enlarge their herds. "We're spending $1 million to make $4,000," said Ryan Stromberger, a rancher in southwest Nebraska just outside the city of Ogallala who also has two feedlots.

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TV Flop Batters MLB Revenue Model

BY LINDSEY ADLER AND SARAH KROUSE

The San Diego Padres might have just gone on baseball's most poorly timed payroll spending spree.

The Padres have struck a string of marquee deals over the past two years that left them with a payroll of about $250 million this year. Five players have long-term contracts worth at least $100 million.

But now, the Padres' compulsion to spend lavishly to compete for championships is colliding with the fragile economics of baseball's local broadcast deals, teeing the team up for a potential crisis.

This week, a stream of revenue that is crucial to paying those players suddenly ran dry. Diamond Sports Group, which was set to pay the Padres $52 million this year for the right to broadcast the team's games on its Bally's regional sports networks, declined to make a contractually obligated payment as it moves through chapter 11.

Please turn to page A12

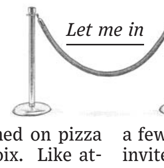
Twitter Users Beg for Code To New Social-Media Platform

* * *

FOMO has people scrambling and pleading to join the invite-only Bluesky

BY MEGHAN BOBROWSKY AND ALEXA CORSE

SAN FRANCISCO—At a recent event hosted by a tech company, dozens of San Francisco young professionals and others crowded into a basement event space decorated with string lights and munched on pizza and sipped LaCroix. Like attendees at so many Bay Area gatherings, they were chasing the latest hot new thing. This wasn't the real place they wanted to be.



The event was hosted by Bluesky, the Twitter-like social-media platform backed by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. The platform, which said this week it has grown to some 100,000 users from a few hundred in February, is invite-only—and the invite codes can be hard to come by.

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TOMORROW

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SUMMER MAGIC

NHTSA Is Faulted Over Timeliness Of Defect Probes

BY RYAN FELTON

The nation's top auto-safety regulator is failing to meet its own targets for completing investigations into defects that could put drivers at risk, a government audit found.

The findings come as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has spent eight years investigating air-bag inflators that could explode and injure people, a time period that far exceeds its own longstanding guidelines of having probes completed in a year or less.

The audit, covered in a report dated May 31 by the U.S. Transportation Department's inspector general's office, recommended that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration implement a plan for meeting its targets for completing auto-defects investigations and ensure documents related to those probes are uploaded to its public website for transparency and accountability.

The lack of timely investigations may limit NHTSA's ability to identify and respond to rapidly evolving or serious auto-safety risks, the report said. "Further, delays in completing safety defect investigations could result in unidentified motor vehicle defects and safety risks to the traveling public," it said.

The report was made public after the publication of this article on The Wall Street Journal's website.

NHTSA, in a statement, said it has already implemented most of the watchdog's recommendations, and that the changes it began making in 2016 have led it to address safety risk faster than in the past. The agency said that it is continuing efforts to identify safety issues more quickly and engage with manufacturers earlier in the process to conduct more timely recalls.

The inspector general of-

Please turn to page A6

VISIT…

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U.S. NEWS

Supreme Court Deals a Blow to Unions

Justices rule company can sue striking workers for losses caused by work action

BY JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court ruled that a building-materials company could sue a union it claims tried to spoil its concrete and damage its trucks during a strike, without waiting for the National Labor Relations Board to resolve allegations between labor and management.

"All agree" that federal law "protects the right to strike but that this right is not absolute," Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote for the court, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Brett Kavanaugh. Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Samuel Alito filed or joined opinions agreeing with the outcome on slightly different grounds.

Barrett's opinion focused heavily on the company's allegations regarding the Seattle-area work action, which the majority viewed as egregious. "Because the Union took affirmative steps to endanger [company] property rather than reasonable precautions to mitigate that risk, the NLRA does not arguably protect its conduct," Barrett wrote.

But while Thomas and Gorsuch called for reconsidering a 1959 precedent that pre-empts state law for conduct covered by the National Labor Relations Act, the majority declined to go that far.

The court's newest member, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, filed a 27-page dissent arguing that under the National Labor Relations Act the NLRB should resolve competing management and labor claims before the company's suit can proceed.

The decision reflects "the longstanding principle that federal law does not shield labor unions from tort liability when they intentionally destroy an employer's property," said Noel Francisco, who represented Glacier Northwest's CalPortland building-materials company. "Our client is entitled to just compensation for its property that the union intentionally destroyed."

Darin Dalmat, who argued the case for Teamsters union Local 174, said that "At the end of the day, nothing in this decision will stop workers from exercising their federally protected rights to strike when necessary to achieve better wages, benefits and working conditions."

The local, representing about 85 drivers for CalPortland operations in King County, Wash., called a strike during contract negotiations in August 2017. Some drivers walked off the job leaving concrete in their trucks' rotating mixers, sending management scrambling to prevent the mix from solidifying. The trucks survived, but much of the concrete didn't.

A week later, the two sides ratified a collective bargaining agreement, but issues over the work action remained unresolved. In December 2017, Glacier Northwest sued Local 174 in state court, alleging the union conspired to destroy its concrete. Local 174 responded by filing a complaint with the NLRB, alleging, among other things, that Glacier Northwest's lawsuit was unlawful retaliation for a protected strike.

In December 2021, the Washington state Supreme Court dismissed Glacier Northwest's lawsuit. Glacier Northwest appealed to the current U.S. Supreme Court, which heard arguments in January. The company's lawyer argued that Local 174's work action wasn't even arguably a protected strike but deliberate destruction of company property.

Suits Are Allowed To Proceed Against Supermarket Chains

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court said lawsuits could proceed alleging that the supermarket chains Safeway and Supervalu defrauded the government by claiming Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements at list price for drugs that they typically sold to consumers at steeply discounted rates.

Writing for a unanimous court, Justice Clarence Thomas said the central question in the suits wasn't if a reasonable person hypothetically could have misunderstood the reimbursement rules, but rather if the executives actually did. And evidence suggested that the supermarkets knew they were cheating the program and took steps to hide it, he wrote.

The decision "sends a strong signal to anybody who would try to exploit legal ambiguities to cheat the public that such tactics won't fly," said Tejinder Singh, who argued the cases for whistleblowers who filed suit under the False Claims Act. "I'm hopeful that today's decision will help promote honesty, transparency and accountability in the administration of government programs."

Neither Boise, Idaho-based **Albertsons Companies**, which owns Safeway, nor United Natural Foods, of Providence, R.I., which acquired Supervalu in 2018 and closed its retail stores, responded to requests for comment.

The alleged schemes began in 2006, when competitor Walmart began selling many generic drugs at $4 for a 30-day supply. According to a Supervalu executive, implementing a similar $4 program allegedly could have cost the company $40 million or $50 million. Instead, the supermarkets responded with price-match policies rather than across-the-board price cuts, and most of their customers obtained prescription drugs at the discounted rate.

Medicare and Medicaid vendors are entitled to government reimbursement for "usual and customary" prices. Safeway and Supervalu claimed reimbursement at their list prices, despite hearing from state Medicaid agencies and a pharmacy benefit manager that they were entitled only to the actual prices they typically charged.

Evidence suggested the companies knew they were cheating the system, with Supervalu employees referring to a "stealthy approach" to pricing and a Safeway document cautioning not to "put any of this in writing to stores because our official policy is we do not match."

—Jess Bravin

MARLENA SLOSS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Alphabet revised its estimates on the useful life of its server infrastructure. Bicycles at the Google unit's headquarters.

Firms Find Surprising Profits

Continued from Page One

A report published Thursday by research firm Calcbench compared the net income based on accounting standards for 200 randomly selected companies in the S&P 500 with their adjusted net income, which can include or exclude items that would normally be counted. The adjusted numbers were higher by $1.1 billion on average last year, an increase of more than 130% over a similar sample from the year prior.

Another measure used to predict the likelihood of earnings flattery is the Beneish M-score, named for its creator, Indiana University accounting professor Messod Beneish. Recently, academics found the aggregate score of a sample of nearly 2,000 companies was at its highest level in more than 40 years, the most recent data show. Historically, the aggregate score peaks ahead of a downturn.

First-quarter earnings exceeded expectations by an unusually large amount. Of the 485 companies on the S&P 500's roster that had reported first-quarter earnings as of May 26, 77% surpassed analysts' expectations, according to data provider Refinitiv. Since 1994, 66% of companies beat expectations in an average quarter.

The magnitude of the overperformance also stands out. Companies in aggregate are reporting earnings 6.9% above expectations, compared with a long-term average of 4.1%, according to Refinitiv.

The heightened use of the measures comes as regulators are scrutinizing nontraditional calculations and earnings manipulation. The Securities and Exchange Commission as recently as December warned companies that pro forma measures that replace traditional accounting methods with individually tailored disclosure could violate its rules.

The SEC has also said companies must reconcile how they get to the pro forma figures from the reported ones.

Note: 1Q 2023 companies reporting as of May 26
Source: Refinitiv

Google came into 2023 on a cold streak, having missed analysts' earnings consensus earnings in every quarter of last year as the slowing economy dragged on its core advertising business.

In April, the company broke the trend. Despite a continued slowdown in the company's ad sales, Alphabet reported earnings per share of $1.17, beating analysts' expectations of $1.08 a share. Google's shares have risen some 18% since its earnings report.

The company's filings noted two material changes in its accounting that helped boost the bottom line.

First, the company revised its estimates on the useful life of its server infrastructure, saying it would last up to six years instead of four. The change, the second such extension in two years, added 6 cents a share of earnings, according to the company. The change mirrored similar moves by competitors.

Separately, the company said it was shifting its stock-compensation awards for employees from January to March, resulting in the company recognizing less expense in the first quarter relative to the rest of the year.

The company's filings didn't disclose the precise impact of the move on first-quarter earnings but mentioned it several times as a material offset to expenses. In a filing, Alphabet said the move was due to a previously announced change to employee evaluations.

Some accounting professors questioned the treatment. "It's highly suspect," said Melissa Lewis-Western, an accounting professor at Brigham Young University. "Actual performance hasn't changed, you're just changing the allocation of the cost."

Online used-car seller Carvana was coming off a dismal year in 2022, in which its shares lost 97%.

Analysts expected the company to post a loss of $2.03 a share for this year's first quarter. Ten days before the quarter ended, Carvana executives said they expected adjusted gross profit per car sold to come in between $4,100 and $4,400 for the quarter.

Carvana surprised Wall Street by losing only $1.51 a share, which sent the company's shares soaring. Driving the beat was a better-than-forecast adjusted gross profit per car sold of nearly $4,800.

One reason Carvana's earnings jumped was because it unwound $51 million in charges it made in the previous quarter. The company took the charges because it had expected to sell cars in its inventory for less than it had once expected but was then able to sell them for more as used-car prices appreciated.

Unwinding the allowances boosted earnings by 48 cents a share, nearly all of the company's beat of analysts' expectations.

A spokesman for Carvana said the allowance's potential impact was widely communicated to the market before the earnings release.

Water Worries Halt Builders in Phoenix

BY JIM CARLTON AND ELIZA COLLINS

PHOENIX—Arizona paused new approvals on subdivision development in some of this city's far-flung suburban areas, following a report that determined the fast-growing metropolis doesn't have enough water to meet estimated demand over the next 100 years.

The report released by Gov. Katie Hobbs on Thursday will primarily affect areas surrounding Phoenix where developers plan large-scale subdivisions that rely on groundwater which has been found in short supply. The state had already determined there wasn't enough groundwater to support major planned projects in the Buckeye area in western Maricopa County, but this expands the shortfall designation to other high-growth areas including the Queen Creek area in the eastern part of the county. Subdivisions already approved for development aren't affected.

"If we do nothing, we could face a 4% shortfall in groundwater supplies over the next 100 years. We have to close this gap and find efficiencies for our water use," the Democratic governor said in a press conference. She said the findings triggered a law that pauses approvals of development permits that would rely on groundwater "ensuring that we don't add to any future deficit."

Arizona requires certification of a 100-year supply of water to build in most places.

The new rules won't have much impact on the city of Phoenix and more than a dozen of the biggest cities in the metropolitan area of about five million people because they already have designations of "assured water supply," said Sarah Porter, director of the Kyl Center for Water Policy at Arizona State University. Although the state has found a groundwater shortage for the whole county, those cities have other sources they rely on more, state officials say.

With developers outside of those cities now needing to find more water, she said the imposed limits could redirect where developers build.

Phoenix and its surrounding area has seen explosive growth in recent years, in part because of sprawling developments edging outward from Phoenix. But water in the Southwest has become increasingly scarce over a two-decade long drought. That has resulted in a decline of the Colorado River that has been so precipitous Arizona already has lost about one fifth of its supply from that source.

REBECCA NOBLE/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Water from the Colorado River flowing in Phoenix.

Biden Pick for CDC Head Is Public-Health Veteran

President Biden plans to pick former North Carolina Health Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to people familiar with the planning.

By Stephanie Armour, Andrew Restuccia and Sarah Toy

TRAVIS LONG/THE NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Dr. Mandy Cohen

Cohen would take the place of Dr. Rochelle Walensky, who is stepping down at the end of June as director of the CDC. Walensky led the public-health agency for more than two years.

Cohen, a medical doctor like Walensky, served in the Obama administration as chief of staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and helped implement the Affordable Care Act.

She also served as North Carolina's health secretary for nearly five years into 2021, helping lead the state through the Covid-19 pandemic. She is an executive at Aledade, a network of independent primary-care practices.

Cohen didn't respond to a request for comment.

As the next CDC director, Cohen would face significant challenges, including addressing a loss of trust in the agency, longstanding gaps in collecting public-health data and lags in releasing information to the public.

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FDA Warns Against Custom Versions of Ozempic

By Liz Essley Whyte And Rolfe Winkler

The Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers that it can't guarantee the safety of custom-made forms of Ozempic and other popular weight-loss drugs.

So many people have sought Ozempic and Wegovy to slim down that the drugs are in short supply, even for people with diabetes who need them. As a result, some people have turned to pharmacies to make a solution containing the active ingredient, semaglutide. The bespoke manufacturing, known as compounding, is legal for drugs that are in shortage.

But the FDA said this week it had received safety reports regarding people who had taken compounded semaglutide. It didn't specify the number of reports, nor provide details of what they said.

The FDA said it had received other reports saying compounders were using semaglutide salt, which is a different ingredient than the one in Ozempic and Wegovy.

"Patients should not use a compounded drug if an approved drug is available to treat a patient," the FDA said. "Patients and healthcare professionals should understand that the agency does not review compounded versions of these drugs for safety, effectiveness or quality."

Novo Nordisk, the maker of Ozempic and Wegovy, has also warned patients about compounded semaglutide, saying they don't have "the same safety, quality and effectiveness assurances as our FDA-approved drugs and may expose patients to health risks."

Pharmacists are allowed to compound drugs in shortage, and compounded medications are safe, said Scott Brunner, chief executive of the Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding. If consumers plan to purchase compounded semaglutide, the FDA said they should buy from state-licensed pharmacies or FDA-registered bulk compounders known as outsourcing facilities, with a prescription from a licensed healthcare provider.

State boards of pharmacy in Mississippi, North Carolina and West Virginia in recent weeks have warned pharmacists they should only use actual semaglutide, not semaglutide salt, and obtain the active ingredient from FDA-approved wholesalers.

—Sara O'Brien contributed to this article.

Florida Student Wins Scripps National Spelling Bee

NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAND LOVER: The winner for Dev Shah, a 14-year-old from Florida, was 'psammophile,' an organism that prefers sandy areas. The spelling bee concluded Thursday in Maryland.

Professors Use Oral Exams to Foil AI Cheats

By Douglas Belkin

When the pandemic closed classrooms in March 2020 and forced remote teaching, a top engineering student at the University of California, San Diego anxiously expressed concern to a professor that her classmates would cheat, bend the class curve and lower her grade.

Prof. Huihui Qi considered the dilemma and introduced a testing method with a 2,000-year-old record that is today largely ignored: oral exams.

"The students were nervous," Qi said. "None of them had taken exams like this before."

That initiative led to a three-year research experiment that has now stretched across 7,000 oral exams. It comes as a wave of professors around the world are experimenting with oral exams to improve teaching and learning and to discourage cheating.

Qi believes the exams can push students past rote memorization, prompt them to think on their feet and reveal a student's conceptual understanding of the subject matter better than most written exams. They are also very hard to hack.

The upbeat assessment comes at a perilous moment for the nation's universities. Nearly two-thirds of college students admitted to cheating before the pandemic, according to the International Center for Academic Integrity, which researches cheating.

When the pandemic hit, plagiarism increased, according to Turnitin, a company that sells a plagiarism-detection system. ChatGPT, which became accessible to the public last year, added another variable. This spring, Turnitin found about 4% of papers turned in to professors were generated almost entirely by artificial intelligence.

If a degree no longer designates legitimate academic achievement it will cease to hold value, said Tricia Bertram Gallant, a director of the academic integrity office at UC San Diego and a member of the International Center for Academic Integrity.

Schools are scrambling to address the fast-moving threat. Baylor University asked professors to require students to write assignments in class by hand if possible. Next fall, Stanford University will proctor some exams. Student newspaper editors at Middlebury College have called for a reconsideration of the school's honor code after a survey found two-thirds of students admitted to breaking it.

The pressure has led to a "groundswell of interest" in oral examinations, said Stephen Dobson, dean of education at Central Queensland University in Australia.

Oral exams date back at least to ancient Greece, when Socrates famously questioned students in Athens. They were the traditional method of testing at universities for hundreds of years and remain popular across many European nations today, Dobson said. In the 17th century, written exams supplanted them in most English-speaking countries, largely because they are more efficient at scale and offer more precise measurements.

Turnitin found about 4% of papers turned in were generated almost entirely by AI.

Among the few U.S. students who routinely take an oral examination today are doctoral candidates defending their dissertations. Dobson said U.S. colleges are missing an opportunity because oral exams mimic many of the demands in the real world and are great training for job interviews.

At UC San Diego, Qi's experiment drew attention across the university's engineering department. With funds from a research grant, she arranged seven professors teaching nine different engineering classes to experiment with various forms of oral tests and determine which design was the most fair, effective and efficient.

The exams generally last between 10 minutes and 15 minutes and consist of several questions. Students answer them, then explain why they approached the problem the way they did.

To grade consistently, instructors in the UC San Diego pilot use the same keywords when they ask a question and wait the same amount of time—about 8 seconds—before speaking if a student pauses. Instructors also coordinate when and how to nudge a student who may be heading in the wrong direction or to validate their answers if they are correct.

One video of an exam with Qi is punctuated by encouragement and positive reinforcement.

"In some classes you can memorize a process and then on a written exam you can just plug and chug, you follow the process, you don't really have to understand what you're doing with all those calculations," said Isabella Fiorini, a junior studying mechanical engineering at UC San Diego. "But on an oral exam you have to explain why you're doing what you're doing."

Nearly two-thirds of students report they are more highly motivated to learn the subject when they have an oral exam, according to the research of Qi and her team. Grades increase by about 10%. The lowest-performing students have shown the greatest improvement.

The exams haven't completely eliminated cheating. Instructors have suspected some students have had classmates standing just out of view of the camera as they answer questions online. She described the efforts as clumsy and pretty easy to detect but difficult to prove. "Some students' answers are a little weird and sound unnatural," she said. "When we ask follow-up questions, they can't answer."

Medicare Plans to Widen Coverage of Alzheimer's Drugs

By Stephanie Armour

Medicare plans to widen coverage of Alzheimer's drugs that could win full approval as soon as this summer.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Thursday said it would cover **Biogen** and **Eisai**'s treatment Leqembi if the drug wins full approval and patients and doctors contribute to a registry that collects evidence on how the medication works.

Doctors, drugmakers and patients had pushed CMS to cover the drugs.

Doctors, drugmakers, and patients and their families had pushed CMS to cover the drugs. Most Alzheimer's patients in the U.S. are Medicare enrollees. Shares in Biogen and Eisai rose after the CMS announcement.

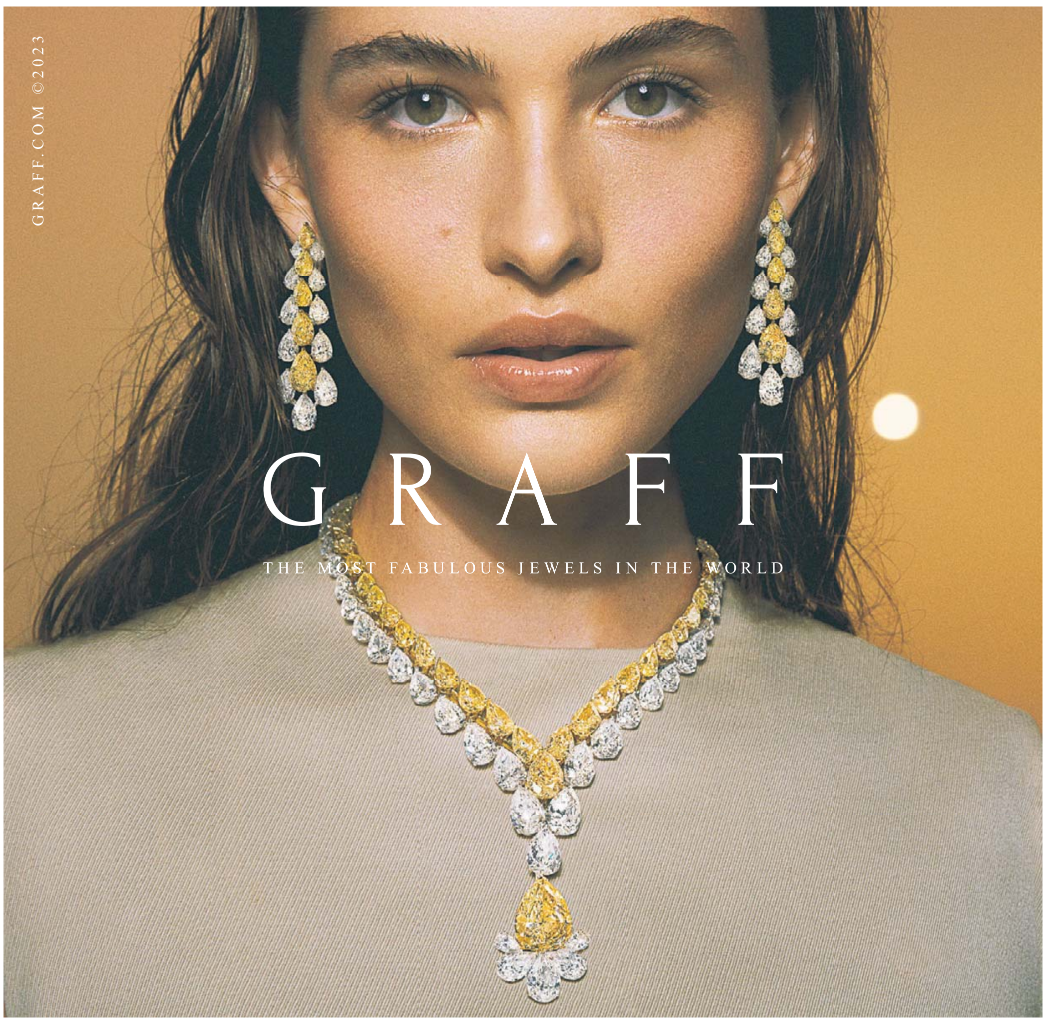
The Food and Drug Administration conditionally approved Leqembi in January and has a July 6 deadline to decide whether to grant it full approval. **Eli Lilly** said May 3 that it would seek full FDA approval for donanemab, which had slowed cognitive and functional decline for early-stage Alzheimer's patients.

The medications are among a class of drugs that aim to reduce cognitive decline in Alzheimer's patients by targeting a sticky plaque in the brain called amyloid.

Last year, CMS had denied coverage of such anti-amyloid drugs after doctors and researchers questioned the safety and effectiveness of Aduhelm, another anti-amyloid drug from pharmaceutical companies Biogen and Eisai. Regulators said the pricey drug isn't fully proven to work against Alzheimer's disease.

Broader Medicare coverage of the new drugs would begin the day the FDA grants full approval, CMS said.

To obtain the expanded federal coverage, people must be in Medicare Part B, which covers care including doctor visits and outpatient services. They must be diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease and have a doctor who participates in a registry with a clinical team and follow-up care.



McCarthy Defies Odds With Deal

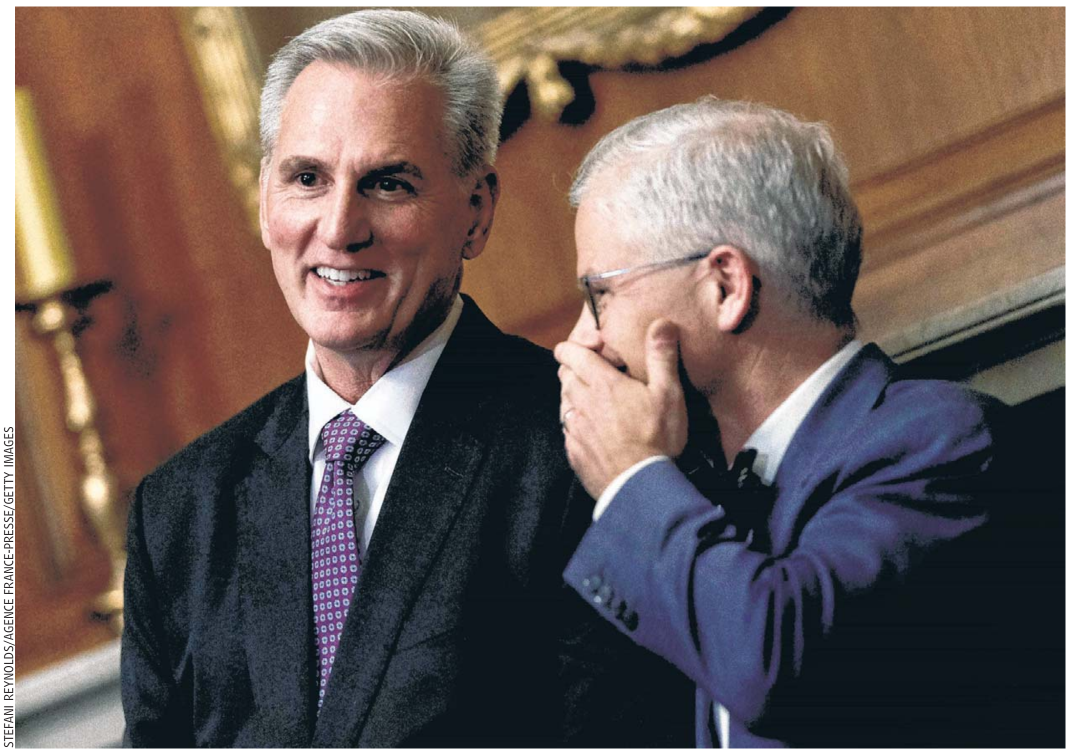
House speaker racks up political win, but GOP critics could still mount a challenge

By Natalie Andrews

WASHINGTON—For House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, pursuing a bipartisan deal to avoid defaulting on the nation's debt meant putting his own job at risk. Now he is taking a victory lap, even as threats to his leadership endure in corners of his party.

On Wednesday, the California Republican got a must-pass bill through the House to suspend the $31.4 trillion debt ceiling into early 2025 in exchange for reining in federal spending. The bill, crafted in breakneck talks with the White House, then headed to the Senate, where lawmakers quickly passed it Thursday to make a June 5 deadline and avoid an unprecedented U.S. default.

"I think we did pretty dang good for the American public," a triumphant McCarthy said Wednesday night. Recalling his contentious speaker vote, he told reporters, "Every question you gave me, 'Could we survive? What could we even do?' I told you then, it is not how you start, it is how you finish."



STEFANI REYNOLDS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, seen with Rep. Patrick McHenry (R., N.C.), had faced doubters about his ability to corral votes.

The passage of the bill marked a third key win for McCarthy and a setback for his detractors, who questioned whether he would get the votes to become speaker in January and doubted he could guide a debt-ceiling bill through the House in April, much less a bipartisan debt-ceiling deal in May.

Meanwhile, he has also shepherded several repeals of Biden administration regulations related to socially conscious investing, waterways, trade and other issues, forcing Senate Democrats to take politically uncomfortable votes and prompting President Biden to issue his first vetoes.

"Kevin McCarthy has always been underestimated," said Rep. Patrick McHenry (R., N.C.), chairman of the Financial Services Committee and one of the bill's negotiators.

Next for McCarthy will be the appropriations process, set in motion by the bill passed Wednesday. He will once again have to balance those who call for specific spending cuts with those who want to stretch spending, including for pet projects in their districts, and try to make the deadline at the end of September. He also said he wants to organize a bipartisan commission to look at the entirety of government spending, including mandatory spending programs such as Medicaid and Social Security that aren't affected by the debt-ceiling deal.

There are danger signs for the leader. While McCarthy was able to persuade a majority of his conference to support the bill, it drew less support from Republicans (149) than Democrats (165), underscoring the antipathy many GOP lawmakers felt toward the deal with Biden. Sen. Mike Lee (R., Utah), who was seen huddling with critics including Reps. Chip Roy (R., Texas) and Andy Biggs (R., Ariz.) during the House vote, called the bill the "Biden-McCarthy Debt Expansion Act." Some GOP critics said McCarthy's actions raised fresh doubts about whether he should remain speaker.

Others concede that the votes wouldn't be there to oust him soon, in part because there is no clear successor. Also, some hard-line conservatives have become closely allied with the speaker, including House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan (R., Ohio) and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R., Ga.), members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

In a floor speech Wednesday, McCarthy recounted the trials and tribulations that led first to his speakership win and then to a deal on the debt ceiling. He said he was counted out by both congressional Democrats who thought he couldn't control his conference and Biden who refused for months to meet with him.

"I heard the detractors, I'm an optimist, you have to be," McCarthy said. "I sat there 15 rounds.... I waited 97 days and listened to the president tell me he will never meet with me. But I woke up every morning thinking, this might be the day." Asked by reporters whether the terms of the deal broke his pledge to conservatives, he ticked off the cuts in the bill and said: "I'm not sure which promise I could make that I couldn't keep." Asked about a possible challenge from dissidents, he responded, "It's up to them."

In a statement after the vote, Biden praised McCarthy and his team for negotiating in good faith. "Neither side got everything it wanted. That's the responsibility of governing," he said.

—Siobhan Hughes and Alex Leary contributed to this article.

Landmark Environmental Law to Get Overhaul

By David Harrison

The debt-ceiling bill that passed Congress makes some of the most far-reaching changes to the country's landmark environmental law in decades, potentially accelerating new renewable-energy investments championed by the Biden administration.

The bill tightens the scope of environmental reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 and allows more projects to win approval without having to undergo the most complex types of reviews. It also sets time limits of no more than two years to complete the studies.

And in a concession to the fossil-fuel industry, it expedites the permitting for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a 303-mile natural-gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia that has been tied up in litigation. The pipeline has been a top priority of Sen. Joe Manchin (D., W.Va.), a pivotal vote in the Senate who has also been an outspoken proponent of broader permitting changes.

But the bill doesn't make it easier to build and pay for the transmission lines to get wind and solar power produced in remote areas to urban markets, which Democrats have called for. It also doesn't restrict opponents' ability to sue to delay projects, a priority for Republicans.

"This was a starting point, and we are going to make sure that we can get clean energy expanded by working on transmission in the future," said Shalanda Young, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"This is all about unlocking America's resources," said Rep. Garret Graves (R., La.), a top Republican negotiator. Graves said negotiators decided not to include a transmission provision in the bill because lawmakers had little previous experience with the issue.

Overhauling the permitting process has been a priority for Republicans. Democrats have been wary of making big changes, fearful they would weaken environmental protections.

The dispute over the permitting language underscores a rift between wind and solar energy backers and environmental groups. The split is apparent within the Democratic caucus.

Rep. Scott Peters (D., Calif.), a clean-energy advocate, said he supports the permitting provisions. The 1970 law "was designed to stop bad things," he argued. "We can't let it slow down the transition to a clean economy, which is what it threatens to do." But Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D., Ariz.), the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said the bill "gives polluters a shield, inevitably worsening an already unacceptable status quo."

Senate Approves Debt Bill

Continued from page A1

ment is a big win for our economy and the American people," he said.

The bill's passage closed out a relatively smooth final chapter in Congress's efforts to tackle the debt ceiling after months of angry finger pointing. Democrats accused Republicans of irresponsibly using the prospect of default to extort concessions. Republicans countered that the nation's growing debt called for decisive action, while also ruling out new taxes proposed by Biden.

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.) said, 'Democrats are feeling very good tonight.'

Democrats control the chamber 51-49, and the bill was backed by 46 members of the Democratic caucus and 17 Republicans, putting it over the 60 votes required for passage. One senator, Republican Bill Hagerty of Tennessee, didn't vote.

"Democrats are feeling very good tonight," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D., N.Y.). "We've saved the country from the scourge of default," noting that far more Democrats than Republicans voted for the deal.

Sen. John Barrasso (R., Wyo.), a member of GOP leadership who opposed the bill, said it "does not do enough to match the seriousness of the moment and the dangerous debt crisis our country is facing."

The Treasury said in January that the nation had bumped up against the debt limit and started using extraordinary measures to keep the government solvent. Biden, a Democrat, initially vowed he wouldn't negotiate on the debt ceiling, insisting it be raised with no conditions attached. But talks between McCarthy, a California Republican, and the president kicked off in earnest last month, after House Republicans surprised many Democrats by staying largely united to pass a bill proposing deep spending cuts and rolling back parts of Biden's climate and tax agenda.

The Senate vote Thursday came after the House approved the measure late Wednesday. A strong majority of House Democrats and Republicans voted in favor of the bill, despite angry objections from conservatives that the measure didn't do enough to control spending and protests from progressives about new work requirements.

Under an agreement to allow the Senate to fast-track the vote, senators also considered a series of 11 amendments, related to issues including balancing the budget and a provision expediting the approval of a natural-gas pipeline. All were rejected, as leaders warned that passage of any of them would require the bill to be sent back to the House, which has already left town, and forcing a delay.

The bill, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, would suspend the debt ceiling through Jan. 1, 2025, pushing the issue beyond the 2024 elections, in exchange for trims to unspecified domestic programs and a 3% cap on increases for military spending in fiscal 2024. It would provide $45 billion for a program expanding coverage for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits, end a freeze on student-loan payments, expedite energy projects and raise to 54 the age at which able-bodied, low-income adults without dependents must work to receive food aid.

It doesn't touch major programs like Medicare and Social Security, showing how lawmakers are reluctant to address the biggest drivers of U.S. debt and have confined their fights to the narrow space of the discretionary budget, which accounts for almost a third of spending.

The legislation would reduce the deficit by about $1.5 trillion over a decade compared with the baseline forecast, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Because the U.S. consistently runs large annual deficits, the debt limit must regularly be addressed. Once the limit is reached, lawmakers must raise or suspend the ceiling before the Treasury Department can issue more debt.

The Treasury has been auctioning ultrashort-term debt in recent days, including $15 billion of one-day securities that settle on June 5 and mature on June 6. The department has said it has enough space under the debt limit to issue these securities, as well as other longer-term ones, but warned that they may not generate enough cash to pay the government's bills if the debt limit isn't raised by June 5.

Treasury officials are hoping to auction roughly $123 billion in debt on Monday, though they may have to delay the sales if the debt limit hasn't been raised in time. The department said it would provide an update about whether the auction would move forward on the morning of June 5.

The Senate's debate Thursday provided the clearest glimpse into tensions, particularly among Senate Republicans, that had been largely muffled until Thursday. The negotiations were held largely between McCarthy and Biden, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) stayed out of the fray.

Among the top concerns were those of defense hawks like Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.), who worried that the increase in military spending would hamstring the Pentagon at the moment when the U.S. is on alert about the military threat posed by China.

"Please stop talking about confronting China when you're dismantling the American Navy," Graham said on the Senate floor. He voted against the debt-ceiling deal.

—Andrew Duehren contributed to this article.

Repeal of Student Loan Plan Advances

By David Harrison

WASHINGTON—The Senate voted 52-46 Thursday to approve a Republican-led proposal to block President Biden's hotly debated student-debt forgiveness plan, setting up an expected veto.

Democrats Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Jon Tester of Montana joined Republicans in voting for the bill as did independent Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, who caucuses with Democrats. The resolution was approved on a largely party-line vote in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives last week.

Republicans object to Biden's mass student-debt cancellation plan, which would eliminate up to $20,000 in federal debt for as many as 40 million borrowers. The plan has faced legal challenges and has been put on hold while the Supreme Court deliberates whether it is constitutional. A decision is expected in June.

Student-loan payments have been on hold since March 2020, when the Trump administration paused them in the early days of the pandemic.

Biden has extended that pause several times but administration officials have said payments will resume either 60 days after the Supreme Court rules on the debt-forgiveness plan or by the end of August, whichever comes first.

The debt-ceiling bill now moving through Congress includes a provision codifying the resumption of student-loan payments on Aug. 30.

Republicans backing the bill said forgiving student debt would cost taxpayers and be unfair to borrowers who have already paid off their loans. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the White House debt-cancellation plan would cost about $400 billion.

"We're asking taxpayers at large to foot the bill for student-loan cancellation for Americans who enjoy greater long-term earning potential than many of the Americans who will be helping to shoulder the burden for their debts," said Sen. John Thune (R., S.D.).

CBO estimates the debt-cancellation plan would cost about $400 billion.

Democrats said the bill, if enacted, would hurt borrowers, many of whom have already applied to see their debt forgiven.

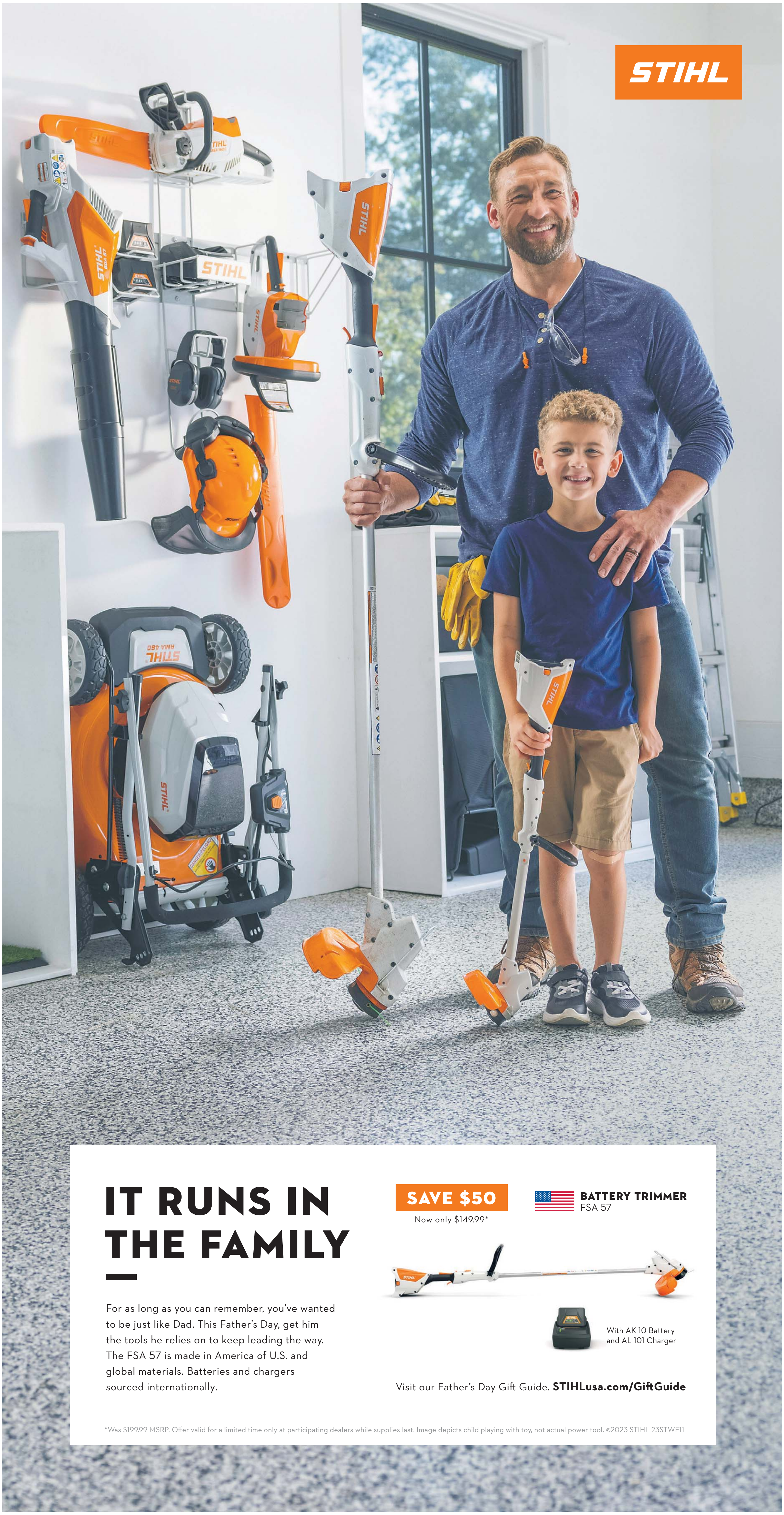
"If Republicans get their way and pass this into law, people across the country would have relief that they have counted on snatched away from them," said Sen. Patty Murray (D., Wash.). "Plans they made will be upended, less money in their pockets, and monthly payments not just abruptly restarted but maybe even abruptly jacked up hundreds of dollars."

The Biden administration, in a statement threatening a veto of the bill, said barring the debt-forgiveness plan would hurt the economy.

"Americans should be able to have a little more breathing room as they recover from the economic strains associated with the Covid-19 pandemic," the White House said.

DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES

Supporters of the loan relief plan have sought to save it.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U.S. NEWS

Few Get Lifesaving Lung Cancer Test

Doctors push for scan, but only 6% of people deemed eligible for it choose to have it done

By Brianna Abbott

There is a test that could diminish the toll of the nation's top cancer killer—if people would use it. Doctors are pushing harder to make that happen.

Lung cancer kills upward of 127,000 people in the U.S. each year. The toll has waned in recent years thanks to declining smoking rates and new treatments, but it remains the deadliest cancer for Americans by far.

A CT scan can catch the disease early to help save lives. The five-year survival rate when lung cancer is caught early is about 60%, compared with around 7% if it is caught after disease has spread, according to the American Lung Association. Medical groups recommend annual, low-dose scans starting at 50 for people who smoke heavily or recently quit. Insurers often cover the test.

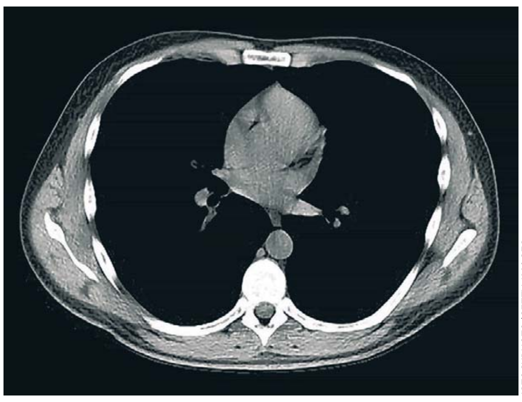
"It's low-hanging fruit for the country," said Dr. Patrick Hwu, president and chief executive officer of the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla. "It would save the most lives immediately."

Only 6% of eligible people are screened, according to a 2022 report from the American Lung Association, compared with more than 60% of people eligible for breast and colorectal cancer screenings.

Doctors have debated whether CT lung screening is worth the risk of false positives and the invasive procedures that result. Some eligible people have said they didn't know the test existed or would rather not know the results because a lung-cancer diagnosis was long considered a death sentence.

Now some doctors and advocates are pushing harder to expand lung-cancer screening and take advantage of newer treatments that have changed the disease's outlook. They are outfitting vans with CT equipment, imploring family doctors to recommend the scans and working to instill hope in patients who are often blamed for developing the disease.

"Most of them don't even know that if we catch these things early, they're curable," said Dr. Robert Winn, director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center.



ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

An image from a CT scan showing a set of lungs. The test for lung-cancer screening uses a low dose of radiation.

In Kentucky, where more than 1 in 5 adults smoke, the screening rate has risen to some 13%, more than double the national average. Medical centers in the state have worked together to raise awareness and swap best practices, prompting Kentucky lawmakers last year to establish a statewide screening program.

Glenna Courtney, a 73-year-old retiree in Sanders, Ky., was screened in 2020 at her doctor's recommendation. Cancer terrified her. Her mother died three days after being diagnosed with lung cancer at age 75 in 2008.

Courtney's scan revealed a spot too small to biopsy. After it grew, surgeons removed it. Tests showed it had been cancerous. But it was gone, and she didn't need chemotherapy or radiation, just regular follow-up scans. "It was such a big sigh of relief," Courtney said.

She urges friends and family to ask their doctors if they should be scanned. Relatives have told her they didn't know about the test, she said. "We need to get the information out there about how much of a life-saver this test is," Courtney said.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare in northern Kentucky, where Courtney is a patient, was screening around 700 patients a month in 2022, up from seven in all of 2013, when a U.S. government-backed panel first recommended the test. More than two-thirds of lung cancers the scans identified at St. Elizabeth in 2022 were in the earliest stage.

Dr. Michael Gieske hadn't heard of the test before St. Elizabeth assigned him in 2016 to encourage more eligible people to get it. He started writing thank-you notes to doctors who got their patients scanned and helped implement software that identifies eligible patients based on their medical records. He climbed Mount Everest with a large white ribbon fashioned from wood, inspired by the pink ribbon for breast-cancer awareness, to spread the word.

"I've seen a lot of lung cancer, and I've found for the first time, there was really something that can make a difference," Gieske said.

Pam Perin, 65, smoked for decades beginning as a teenager. "There was a part of me that just did not want to know," she said.

A snap decision in 2017 to get the test after seeing a poster in her doctor's office led to the removal of a marble-size tumor. She quit smoking and tells everyone she knows about the scan, sometimes handing fliers about it to people she sees smoking.

Though studies show an annual low-dose CT scan can prevent lung-cancer deaths, the scan was first recommended based on limited data and flags false positives that can lead to unnecessary, invasive biopsies and costly follow-up.

"I was definitely hesitant to implement it in my own practice," said Dr. Kenny Lin, a family physician in Lancaster, Pa. More data and better methods for reducing false alarms have made him more confident in the test, he said.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, which first recommended against the scan, endorsed it in 2021 on the strength of the new data. The academy called for more research on the risks of the scan and for work to address barriers to screening among communities of color.

U.S. WATCH

ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden pointed to a sandbag that was the apparent cause of his fall in Colorado on Thursday. The White House said he is fine.

COLORADO

Biden Falls on Stage, Appearing to Trip

President Biden fell down while on stage at the U.S. Air Force Academy on Thursday after handing out diplomas to the military academy's graduates. The president was helped up by a group of officials, and the White House said he was fine.

Biden, 80, delivered the commencement address at the Colorado Springs, Colo., academy and then stood near the front of the stage for about two hours, saluting the new graduates and shaking their hands.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Biden appeared to trip on a black sandbag that was positioned on the stage. After falling to his knees and being helped up, Biden appeared to point at the sandbag. White House communications director Ben LaBolt tweeted that Biden was "fine. There was a sandbag on stage while he was shaking hands."

—Ken Thomas

NEW YORK

City Employees Get 2 Days Remote Work

Thousands of employees at New York City agencies will be allowed to work remotely two days a week starting this month, City Hall officials said, a boon to workers who had yearned for flexibility even as Mayor Eric Adams pushes to revive the city's office districts.

A hybrid work plan was negotiated earlier this year with the city's largest municipal union and will affect tens of thousands of employees for the next two years. Adams, a Democrat, has also announced pilot projects to offer more flexible scheduling for work that can't be done remotely—such as police patrols.

Just under 50% of workers were in New York City metro area offices last week compared with the same prepandemic period, according to an analysis of swipe-card data by Kastle Systems.

—Jimmy Vielkind

FLORIDA

Judge Steps Aside in Disney-DeSantis Case

The federal judge handling **Walt Disney**'s lawsuit against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis recused himself Thursday, landing the case in the hands of a different federal judge who has in the past sided with the governor in blocking challenges to the sex-education law at the heart of the lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker recused himself because of his recent discovery that a relative owned 30 shares of Disney stock.

The case was transferred to U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor, a Trump appointee who has twice rejected lawsuits aimed at blocking Florida's Parental Rights in Education law. The law bars classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in early elementary-school years.

Disney's opposition to that law triggered the company's long-running battle with DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate. DeSantis signed laws in the past year seeking to undermine Disney's control of the special tax district encompassing its Orlando-area theme parks.

—Arian Campo-Flores and Robbie Whelan

WASHINGTON

Oath Keeper Gets Over 4 Years in Prison

A member of the far-right Oath Keepers extremist group who was part of a security detail for former President Donald Trump's longtime adviser Roger Stone before storming the U.S. Capitol was sentenced Thursday to more than four years in prison.

Roberto Minuta, who was seen on video guarding Stone hours before the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, was among six Oath Keeper members convicted by jurors of seditious conspiracy for what prosecutors said was a violent plot to stop the transfer of power from Trump to President Biden after the 2020 election.

—Associated Press

Eating-Disorders Chatbot Shut Down For Giving Diet Tips

By Julie Jargon

A chatbot designed to aid people seeking help for eating disorders and body issues has been taken offline after it provided some users with diet advice.

The bot, named Tessa, operated on the website for the National Eating Disorders Association, and was meant to provide help for website users determined to be at risk for developing an eating disorder. The bot became an online sensation in recent days after social-media posts surfaced showing Tessa giving weight-loss advice. NEDA took it down Tuesday, and leaders say they are investigating what happened.

The episode comes at a moment when eating disorders are on the rise, weight-loss drugs are roiling the diet industry and chatbots, along with full-fledged AI assistants, stand to change the way we get health-care and information.

Built by researchers at several universities, Tessa didn't have artificial intelligence like OpenAI's ChatGPT. It served up prewritten answers to questions—simple conversations about body-image issues to help people reframe their thinking to prevent eating disorders.

After the bot showed promising results in the clinical trial, NEDA made it available in 2022. Cass, maker of AI mental-health assistants, currently operates Tessa.

Meanwhile, the group's telephone and text helpline has been inundated, according to Liz Thompson, NEDA's chief executive.

NEDA is closing the helpline. Sharon Maxwell, a self-described "fat activist" who has previously criticized the group, said news coverage of the helpline ending led her to test the bot. She said it quickly provided information on how she could lose weight. During her 35-minute exchange with Maxwell, Tessa recommended tracking her calorie intake and daily weigh-ins, according to screenshots reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. Tessa said a realistic weight-loss goal is 1 to 2 pounds a week.

That isn't appropriate for someone struggling with a disorder such as anorexia, doctors say.

When NEDA learned about the chatbot's bad advice through Instagram posts, the organization decided to take Tessa offline. The type of instructions the chatbot was providing "is completely against NEDA policy," Thompson said.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, 25,000 messages were exchanged with Tessa—a 600% increase in volume, Thompson said.

Interest surged after news reports said that NEDA was using Tessa to replace the humans operating the telephone helpline. Thompson said those articles are incorrect. NEDA decided to shut down the helpline after a three-year review from its board of directors because of increasing risk factors and overwhelming demand causing long waits, she said.

Cass, the chatbot's operator, determined that about 25 of the 25,000 messages from the holiday weekend contained unhealthy messages, Thompson said. Before that weekend, 5,200 people had interacted with Tessa without complaints to the organization. It isn't like ChatGPT, which can generate unique responses based on information it has ingested.

Cass Chief Executive Michiel Rauws said that the company uses AI to understand what users are typing and that some of its chatbots have generative AI, but he didn't say whether Tessa had generative features.

NHTSA Faulted On Probes

Continued from page A1

fice's findings follow reporting last month by the Journal, which found that the average length for NHTSA's open investigations is now the highest in the agency's 52-year history. Many safety probes launched by NHTSA have been open for three to four years, the Journal found in an analysis of publicly available data.

Among the longest of the government's probes is NHTSA's eight-year investigation into air-bag inflators made by auto-parts supplier ARC Automotive, the Journal found.

Regulators said these inflators are at risk of exploding during a collision and spraying drivers and passengers with metal fragments. The regulatory agency, which has linked the air-bag explosions to two deaths and several injuries, demanded last month that ARC recall 67 million inflators, devices that rapidly inflate an air bag like a balloon when activated.

ARC has said it hasn't identified an inherent defect and disagrees with NHTSA's "sweeping request."

The government's audit was about two years in the works. The inspector general's office said in spring 2021 it was launching the audit to assess NHTSA's processes for identifying and investigating safety defects, following changes that began in 2016 by the auto-safety regulator to how it conducts such work.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation has made progress promoting a safer transportation system by restructuring its office and enhancing investigative processes, the audit found.

Weaknesses in the office's adherence to timeliness goals, inconsistent documentation of safety defect analyses, and its reliance upon aging, decentralized databases increases the "potential for delays in investigating and mitigating important safety issues," the report said.

Specifically, the inspector general's office found that the agency's Office of Defects Investigation didn't meet its own timeline goals in five types of investigations examined. Of the 27 investigations examined from 2018 to 2019, only one met the internal timing guidelines, the audit found.

For one type of investigation, known as a preliminary evaluation, where the agency obtains basic data and information about a potential safety-defect trend, NHTSA has historically set a target of 120 days. On average, the preliminary evaluations reviewed from that same two-year period spent 617 days open, the report said.

According to the report, NHTSA's investigative staff and management attributed the delays to an overwhelming increase in correspondence, giving priority to cooperative working relationships with manufacturers, and relying on external stakeholders to respond to its requests.

In a response attached to the report, NHTSA said it was concerned that there are misconceptions regarding the agency's effective oversight of safety defects. It said that exceeding internal guidelines for completing safety investigations doesn't demonstrate that its efforts are insufficient.

"We do not wait until an investigation is closed to hold a manufacturer accountable for fixing a safety defect, and we may keep an investigation open to exercise ongoing oversight after a recall is issued or a consumer campaign is launched," said Sophie Shulman, NHTSA's deputy administrator, in a May 4 memo responding to the audit and included in the report.

The inspector general office's findings come as NHTSA is increasing pressure on ARC, the supplier that is refusing the agency's recall request.

In a special order dated May 31 and directed to ARC, NHTSA asked the supplier to answer questions about whether it expects any of its inflators to explode in the future, according to a copy of the document published on NHTSA's website.

ARC has until June 14 to respond to NHTSA's special order or it risks facing a maximum fine of about $131.6 million and potential criminal penalties, the agency said. ARC didn't respond to a request for comment.

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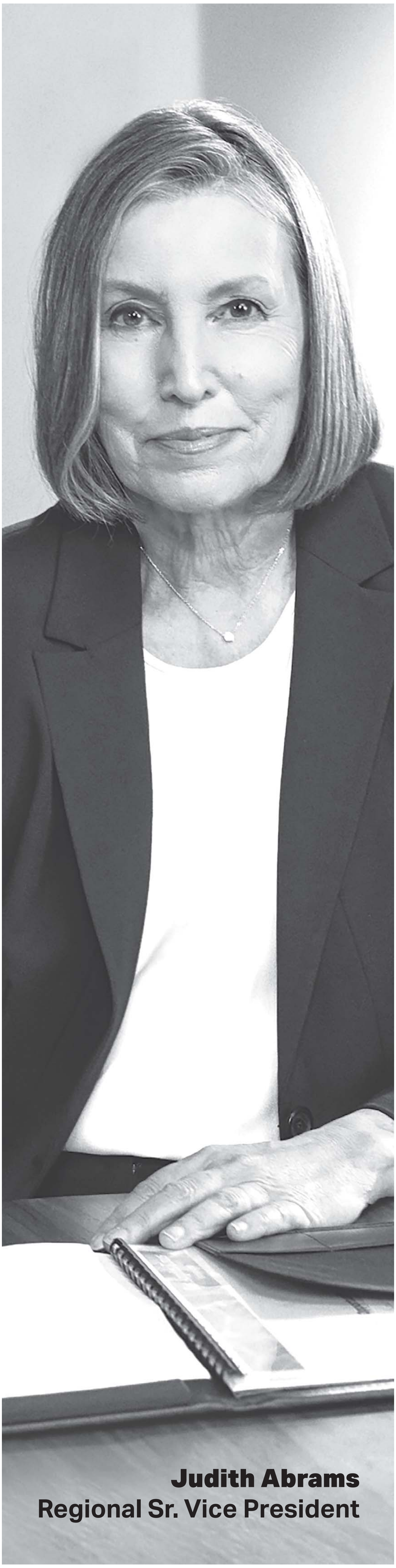


WORLD NEWS

At Least Three Killed In Kyiv Missile Attack

VALENTYN OGIRENKO/REUTERS

A man mourns the loss of his granddaughter who was killed during a Russian missile strike on Kyiv.

By Ian Lovett And Laurence Norman

A predawn missile assault on Kyiv killed at least three people, including a child, while Russian officials said Ukraine was shelling a Russian border region and claimed to have repelled another attempted land incursion.

Moscow launched 10 Iskander ballistic missiles Thursday, Ukraine's air force said. All the missiles were shot down, but falling debris landed in several districts east of the Dnipro River, hitting a medical clinic and starting several small fires.

In the city's Desnianskyi district, a 33-year-old woman was killed as she waited with her daughter for a security guard to open the door of a bomb shelter in a children's hospital next to her housing block, residents said. There were four minutes between the air-raid siren and the debris of the downed missile landing beside the hospital, shattering windows of nearby buildings, killing the woman, and wounding several other people.

A mother and her 9-year-old daughter also were killed in the Thursday barrage, Kyiv police said, and at least 11 others were hurt. Some 484 children have been killed in the war, according to Ukraine's prosecutor general's office.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko wrote on Telegram that all events scheduled for International Children's Day on Thursday were canceled. Olena Zelenska, Ukraine's first lady, wrote Thursday on Twitter that "Children's Day has to be about safe childhood, summer, life...But today it is about new crimes of [the Russian Federation] against children."

Kyiv has been under nearly constant bombardment during the past month. May saw 17 attacks on the capital, including a rare daytime missile assault that damaged the headquarters of Ukraine's military-intelligence directorate. The Russian Defense Ministry also claimed on Wednesday that it destroyed a Ukrainian warship in the Black Sea. Ukrainian officials didn't respond to a request to comment about the alleged strike.

Recent weeks also have seen attacks inside Russian territory, bringing the war home for citizens who had, for much of the war, been relatively insulated from the violence.

The governor of the border region of Belgorod, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said Thursday two districts were shelled, with eight people injured in the Shebekinsky district and at least two hurt in the village of Novopetrovka. Civilians were being evacuated from Shebekinsky, he wrote, and school exams were canceled.

"The population is under threat," he said, adding that evacuations were being delayed by the continuing assault. "We need to wait for the...end of the explosions, the end of the risks of being injured or killed by the shells of the Armed Forces of Ukraine."

Russia's Defense Ministry said an attempted ground incursion by "Ukrainian motorized infantry companies reinforced with tanks" had been thwarted at the border with some 30 soldiers killed.

The Freedom of Russia Legion, a group of Russian nationals fighting for Ukraine, posted footage to Telegram on Thursday that they claimed showed the destruction of Russian military equipment in the Belgorod region. The group also launched a ground assault on the area recently, which was coordinated with Ukrainian military intelligence.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was in Moldova on Thursday to meet European leaders who were expected to approve more aid to Kyiv.

—Bojan Pancevski and Matthew Luxmoore contributed to this article.

◆ U.S. to pay SpaceX for Ukraine satellite internet ... B3

NATO Grapples With Adding Ukraine as Talks Loom

By Daniel Michaels

OSLO—Pressure is growing on NATO to give Ukraine explicit security guarantees and a path to alliance membership as leaders prepare for their annual summit.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday appeared to add weight to calls for Ukraine's membership, telling a conference in Slovakia that Kyiv deserved "something concrete" in terms of a path forward.

"Our focus today was how can we bring Ukraine closer to NATO, where it belongs," said Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg after foreign ministers from the alliance's 31 members and applicant Sweden concluded a gathering in the Norwegian capital on Thursday.

NATO must "have in place frameworks to provide guarantees for Ukrainian security after the end of the war," Stoltenberg said before opening the meeting, which was arranged as an opportunity to talk more casually than at regularly scheduled ministerial gatherings, and at which no formal decisions were taken.

The U.S. has until now largely sidestepped discussions of how or when Ukraine might join NATO, instead focusing on Kyiv's security and military strength. Asked about whether a pathway to NATO would be approved at a coming summit of alliance leaders in Lithuania, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters, "I fully anticipate that will be part of the conversation in Vilnius."

"Ultimately these are decisions that the leaders have to make and finalize," Blinken said. "We have an intense focus on the support we're continuing to provide to Ukraine to make sure that it prevails against the Russian aggression that's been now going on for well over a year." Members would "continue the process of bringing new members into the alliance, notably Sweden."

U.S. and European officials say President Biden has been reluctant to offer full-throated support to Ukraine's NATO candidacy, and has preferred alternate models such as the style of long-term security guarantee the U.S. has with Israel, giving priority to military and other assistance. A U.S. official said that while the Israeli security model had been floated at a certain point, the discussions for how to guarantee Ukraine's long-term security have evolved. The Ukrainians are looking to ensure that once the conflict ends, they aren't going to be left to fend for themselves should Russia launch another invasion, the official said.

> **President Biden has been reluctant to offer full-throated support, officials say.**

The focus, U.S. officials say, has been to provide support for Ukraine on the ground and not to explore the prospects for Ukraine's NATO membership, particularly since there is nowhere near 31 votes needed among NATO members to admit Ukraine. Biden has been focused on maintaining cohesion in the alliance, and the issue of NATO membership for Ukraine is one that continues to divide member states given questions over whether Ukrainian membership would ultimately bring Western allies closer to war with Russia.

The heads of the parliamentary foreign-affairs committees of 19 NATO members released a joint statement on Thursday calling for Ukraine to be given a clear road map to joining at the NATO summit in July. Signatories included the heads of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee and its counterpart committees in the U.K., Germany and France.

"We are confident that Ukraine's NATO membership would greatly contribute to the Alliance's security and would help the Russian society to finally get rid of the imperial dreams, which [Russian President Vladimir] Putin is using to consolidate his regime," the statement said.

"Ukraine is ready to be in NATO, we are waiting when NATO will be ready to host and to have Ukraine," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told reporters on arriving at a summit of European leaders in Moldova on Thursday. "And I think security guarantees are very important not only for Ukraine [but] for our neighbors in Moldova because of Russia and their aggression in Ukraine and potential aggression in other parts of Europe."

OGNEN TEOFILOVSKI/REUTERS

Albanians protest near the bridge that connects north and south Mitrovica in Kosovo. Violence erupted after a contentious election.

Kosovo Clashes Prompt Wider War Fears

By Bojan Pancevski

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia—U.S. and European diplomats are rushing to contain spiraling violence at the heart of Europe and prevent a fresh conflict on a continent shaken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The clashes occurred in Kosovo, one of a string of small Balkan nations created after the violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The eruption of violence left dozens of people wounded this week.

After simmering for months, the confrontation exploded when Kosovo pushed to forcibly install ethnic Albanian mayors in areas populated by ethnic Serbs following a local election largely boycotted by the Serbs and dismissed by international observers as unrepresentative.

Tension has flared up in the region since Kosovo seceded from Serbia, another ex-Yugoslav state, in the late 1990s. The West supported Kosovo militarily during the secession war and Russia backed Serbia. Today, ethnic Albanians make up more than 90% of Kosovo's population, while ethnic Serbs are the majority in a small northern area.

The latest flare-up has raised fears in the West that the possibility of conflict could create an opening for Russia to reignite one of Europe's unresolved flashpoints.

Russia, which has blocked Kosovo from joining the United Nations, has long been accused of stirring discord in the region.

Western officials blamed the prime minister of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, for triggering the recent flare-up. Thirty North Atlantic Treaty Organization peacekeepers suffered wounds as they moved to restore calm. NATO, which provides troops to keep the peace in Kosovo, dispatched an additional 700 troops following the unrest.

More than 50 Serb protesters were injured and five were arrested in the standoff after Kurti deployed armored vehicles to install ethnic Albanian mayors in the Serb-populated area following elections boycotted by the Serbs.

Since Kosovo's formal declaration of independence in 2008 following a brief war in which NATO bombed Serbia, the state has been secured by a U.N. peacekeeping force. Serbia, Russia, China and some EU, NATO and U.N. members haven't recognized Kosovo as an independent state.

U.S. and EU officials have criticized what they said was Kurti's forceful intervention in Serbian-majority areas, and for not enforcing agreements aimed at calming tensions. As a result, Kosovo was dropped from a coming NATO military exercise.

"It is very clear that Kosovar authorities bear responsibility for the current situation and there is noncompliance with an agreement that was... secured just a couple of weeks ago," French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken also called on Kurti to reverse course. "These actions have sharply and unnecessarily escalated tensions, undermining our efforts to help normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia and will have consequences for our bilateral relations with Kosovo," he said.

U.S. diplomats said they warned Kurti against forcefully installing ethnic Albanian mayors who only were elected in Serbian-majority regions after the residents boycotted a recent local poll. They said such moves were undermining Washington's support for the country's integration into NATO and the EU.

Such criticism from the U.S. was unprecedented and signaled a collapse in the diplomatic process to find a settlement between Kosovo and Serbia, said Ivan Vejvoda, a fellow of the Institute for Human Sciences, a Vienna-based think tank. "The pressure worked and it seems that tensions are deflating but the diplomatic process must urgently be brought back on track to avoid a renewed escalation.

Kurti told reporters that the U.S. pressure is "unfortunate and unfair." However, he also appeared to backtrack, indicating that he would allow for new elections and was willing to meet with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

Watch a Video

Scan this code for a video on ethnic tensions erupting in Kosovo.

EU Inflation Cools, Clearing a Path for ECB To Pause Rate Rises

By Tom Fairless

FRANKFURT—Inflation in the eurozone declined to a 15-month low in May, opening a window for the European Central Bank to pause its aggressive interest-rate increases.

The data is unlikely to deter the ECB from increasing rates by another quarter percentage point at its June 15 policy meeting, but it could tee up a pause during the summer.

Major central banks including the Federal Reserve are trying to judge if and when to halt rate increases as inflation declines and economic growth slows. A pause would give central bankers time to assess the impact of their recent historic policy actions, which have exacerbated financial-sector strains and caused pain in part of the global economy.

The European Union's statistics agency said consumer prices in the eurozone were 6.1% higher in May than a year earlier, a decline from the 7% rate of inflation recorded in April. Economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal last week expected a decline to 6.4%.

The sharp fall in the annual inflation rate was driven by energy prices, which surged in March 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but have since fallen back. Food prices are still rising strongly, the data show.

The core rate of inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, declined to 5.3% after hitting a high of 5.7% in March. Central bankers tend to focus on core inflation as an indication of whether rate rises are cooling inflation because it better reflects the balance of demand and supply.

Investors expect the ECB and Fed to pause their rate increases this summer but to hold interest rates at a high level for some months because inflation has proven sticky despite softening economic growth. The ECB's key rate is about 2 percentage points below that of the Fed, leaving some room for further increases, some economists say.

"We suspect that the core inflation rate will come down only slowly and it will be a long time before it hits 2%," said Jack Allen-Reynolds, an economist at Capital Economics in London. He expects the ECB to raise interest rates by a quarter point this month "and probably once more at the July meeting."

Some central bankers are wary of halting their campaigns against high inflation too soon after being surprised by the recent persistence of price increases. On the other hand, the effects of monetary policy on the economy have long and variable lags behind, meaning that the full impact of recent actions might not become apparent for months or years.

Investors expect the ECB to increase its key rate at its June policy meeting to 3.5%, and possibly raise rates one more time over the summer, according to data from Refinitiv.

"We aren't pausing...based on what we see we determine that we have more ground to cover," ECB President Christine Lagarde said recently, after unveiling the bank's latest quarter-point rate increase.

Unemployment remains at or close to record lows across advanced economies, which is likely to give more leverage to workers to demand pay increases. Investors will closely watch monthly U.S. job figures on Friday for signs of any slack in the labor market.

Fed officials signaled on Wednesday they are increasingly likely to hold interest rates steady at their June meeting before preparing to raise them again this summer. The strategy would give officials more time to study the economic effects of the Fed's 10 consecutive prior rate rises and a recent banking stress, by spacing out more increases. They lifted rates on May 3 to a range between 5% and 5.25%, a 16-year high.

Get Ready For Pricier Steaks

Continued from Page One

With less beef available, consumers shouldn't expect lower grocery bills for now. Prices for ground beef, up more than 20% since 2020, could hit record highs this summer during peak grilling season and an estimated average retail price of $5.33 a pound this year, according to analysts at agricultural lender Rabobank. Prices could add at least 15 to 25 cents in 2024, the analysts said.

Some diners are choosing different cuts, or picking up beef only once in a while.

On a recent shopping trip to a Mariano's grocery store in Chicago, 44-year-old Jeff Espiritu opted for on-sale chuck roast for his stir fry, rather than a more expensive cut. He said he has been buying more pork, and looking for sales on beef. "Even the sale prices are still high," Espiritu said.

The prices are testing America's appetite for beef, which has continued to grow despite years of health discussions, a focus on the climate impact of raising cattle and the greater availability of plant-based proteins, according to grocery store executives.

"There is no doubt when you get beef to a certain price people change behavior," said Kroger chief executive Rodney McMullen. When steaks begin to reach a certain price they could become a special occasion item, he said, rather than something they may have once a week.

Cattle at Ryan Stromberger's property in southwest Nebraska were loaded on trucks to go to a meatpacker last month.

DANIEL BRENNER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

'Taking a toll'

A rancher typically raises calves and sells them at an auction to a feedlot. Feedlots fatten the cattle and sell them to meatpacking companies, which slaughter the livestock and sell the meat to food companies, retailers or restaurants. A disruption in one part of the supply chain can throw the whole system off.

In early 2020, meatpackers temporarily shut plants when tens of thousands of workers fell sick during the Covid-19 pandemic. Daily capacity at U.S. cattle and hog facilities temporarily declined as much as 45%, according to the USDA. Over the next year, meatpackers said they had a hard time recruiting enough workers to fully run their plants.

Ranchers held on to cattle, adding to costs to keep them longer than usual. When they could get their cattle in to meat processors, they got less for the animals amid the excess supply, meatpackers said.

At the consumer end of the chain, beef prices climbed to record highs as the processors couldn't supply enough to stock shelves, meat companies said.

Last year, the supply of beef rebounded as industry staffing levels began to improve. Meat companies offered workers higher pay and other benefits while automating more parts of their plants.

Cattle prices improved for ranchers, but by then inflation pushed up prices for fuel, feed and equipment. Severe drought in many key cattle-producing states, such as Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas, parched grazing pastures, requiring spending on supplemental feed such as alfalfa and hay—which are up more than 20% on average from the prior year, ranchers and beef industry officials said.

Ranchers in wetter areas of the country are faring better, and feedlots had their most profitable month in April since April 2017, according to estimates from Iowa State University. But Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are still experiencing some drought, driving feed prices higher and limiting profitability. Better weather conditions over this summer could lead some ranchers to retain more of their animals.

Pork producers, in contrast, have been expanding supply in recent years, and now see a glut in the face of weaker consumer demand. Chicken is America's most consumed protein, but the value of the beef market is double that of chicken, at more than $30 billion for the 52 weeks that ended April 23, according to Circana. And neither pork nor chicken is hit as hard by the drought.

Stromberger, the Nebraska rancher, said he was making only about $20 profit per head of cattle earlier this year. As cattle prices have risen, he is now making about $80 a head. The profit is nowhere near the $500 to $600 he was making around 2014, the last time cattle herds were on the decline. High costs have cut into his profits.

He said he is paying more for everything from the medicine and vitamins needed to keep his cattle healthy to labor, farm equipment and higher interest rates. "The cost of what we're doing is taking a toll," he said.

Thinner herds

As costs on the farm rise, some ranchers are choosing to shrink their herds. It's a weighty bet, because when the landscape reverses, it's a slow process to rebuild: It takes roughly 18 to 22 months to grow beef cattle to market weight, compared with chickens, which are ready to be slaughtered in six weeks, and hogs, in about six months.

The total U.S. cattle supply, which includes dairy cattle, this year is at about 89.3 million, down 3% from 2022, according to the USDA's annual cattle report released in January. The number of cows that are used for breeding beef cattle is at its lowest level in six decades.

Beef production is expected to fall more than 5% from last year, the first year-over-year drop since 2015, according to the USDA's forecast.

A single animal can cost ranchers about $700 or more in operating costs until it's sold to a feedlot—where each brought in just $12 of profit on average in 2022, according to the USDA.

Lisa Roberts, a rancher with more than 200 mother cows between her ranch in Shiner, Texas, and another one 30 miles away, said the wells and the creek near her properties, the primary water sources for her livestock, haven't gone dry yet but many of her neighbors haven't been as fortunate. The lines at the sale barn for ranchers selling off their herds last summer were as long as she has seen in years. "Some people got tired of the hassle and got out of the business," she said. "For the average cattle raiser, it's a break-even business."

In 2022, she sold 157 calves and seven cows on one of her ranches to a feedlot for about $115,000. She spent about $90,000 on operating costs, netting her $25,000, which doesn't include buying any animals or doing barn repairs. That put her in the red in 2021.

Some ranchers also take on a significant amount of debt to finance their operations, which could be more expensive with higher interest rates, analysts said.

At Shake Shack

Restaurants including Olive Garden owner Darden Restaurants, Ruth's Chris Steak House, LongHorn Steakhouse and Portillo's have said they expect pricier beef to drive up their costs over the next year.

Katherine Fogertey, finance chief of burger chain Shake Shack, told analysts in May: "If you're asking me where the biggest part of uncertainty is on the cost side, to me it's beef."

As ranchers trim herds, meatpackers, such as Tyson Foods, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef, which process roughly 85% of beef in the U.S., are having to pay higher prices to secure enough beef to meet the demand of their grocery store and restaurant customers. Live cattle futures—reflecting prices that processors pay for cattle—have been hitting record high levels on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in recent weeks.

Tom Windish, who oversees Cargill's beef division, said cattle herds are expected to decline over the next two to three years, putting additional pressure on meatpacking companies like his.

"When you're talking about the ultimate price of beef to a consumer, the whole chain is under these inflationary pressures," said Windish. "Every step along the way is more expensive."

Beef processing profit margins in the U.S. were about 57% lower in April from a year ago, according to investment firm Stephens. Brazil-based JBS, the world's largest meat company, reported a quarterly loss of $290 million in May.

Tyson, the largest U.S. meat supplier, said operating income from its beef unit fell to $166 million for the first six months of its 2023 fiscal year from $1.59 billion in the prior year's first half. The company's stock is down more than 40% over the past 12 months.

At Wisconsin-based supermarket Festival Foods, Ken Wicker said more consumers are opting to buy sirloins over pricier rib-eyes. Some consumers are choosing to buy more seafood over more expensive steaks, or ground turkey compared with ground beef, said Wicker, the company's senior vice president of fresh foods.

If beef prices continue to rise, he said the grocery chain could shrink the amount of meat in an individual package to reduce sticker shock of certain cuts.

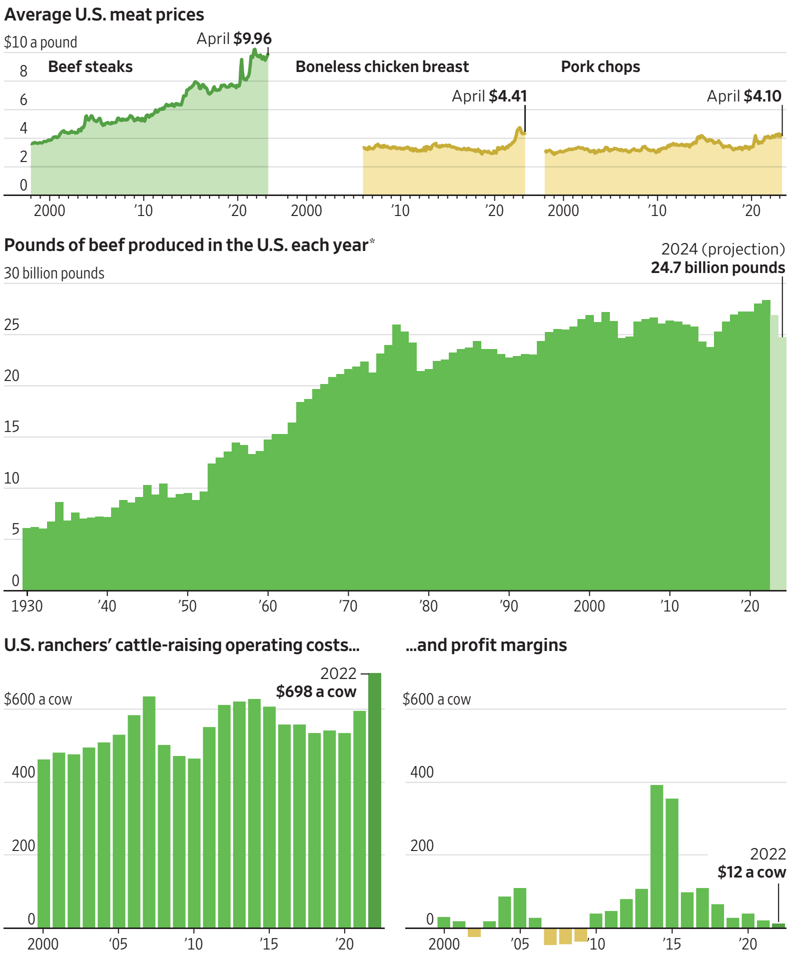
Midwest grocery chain Fareway Stores could turn to offering a free pack of hamburger buns when it sells eight ground beef patties, said Jeff Cook, vice president of market operations. The amount of chicken Fareway is selling is up, especially with the lower poultry prices that kicked in last year amid increased production. Cook said consumers really began to trade down to lower-priced chicken in late 2022 and early 2023.

David Benowitz, president of Craft and Crew Hospitality, said the Wayzata, Minn., restaurant operator recently agreed to a deal to secure 200,000 pounds of beef at a set price that will go toward supplying its menus of steak bowls, burgers and its popular French dip sandwich. It's a shift from the smaller purchases he has made in the past, and not common among smaller restaurant groups, but he said he hopes it will mitigate rising costs.

"Meat prices have been very volatile from month to month," Benowitz said about why the company entered into the contract. "We have forecasted ahead for higher beef prices."

Benowitz said the company, which has six locations in the Twin Cities area, will likely have to renegotiate the deal when its restaurants use up their current beef allotment.

There's a limit to how much the company can raise prices, given its customer base of neighborhood regulars, he said: "If it gets too high, you…look at putting other dishes on the menu."



*2023 and 2024 are projections.

Sources: Agriculture Department (beef production, operating costs, profit margins); Labor Department via St. Louis Fed (prices)

People Plead for Invites

Continued from Page One

Some attendees at the party were hungry for codes. They gathered in a corner where two employees were parceling them out in a decidedly low-tech fashion: a bunch of jumbled letters and numbers written on tiny pieces of paper.

Those codes, also shared digitally, are some of the most sought-after perks in social media right now because of what they unlock: access to an exclusive platform that's also not run by Elon Musk.

Since Musk bought Twitter, the Twitterverse has been in a tizzy about whether to stay or go. Bluesky has emerged as a coveted alternative, and with its scarcity of invites, has prompted an outbreak of FOMO: Where are all the cool kids going and how can I get there? As with many aspirational goals, getting in is sometimes more fun than being there.

Many are using Twitter to find a new option to Twitter: "Hello all. This is me, asking nicely if anyone has a Bluesky invite to bestow upon me," tweeted videogame developer Graham Reid, 32.

Arick Jones, a publicist for a popular fitness club, has been trying for months to get into Bluesky. Jones, 37, said he'd be willing to pay for a code. He's been hunting on Reddit, messaged an old social-media professor and posted on LinkedIn, so far without success. "If I could guarantee it wasn't a scam, I would pay up to $250 for it," said Jones, who lives in San Diego.

Bluesky gives new users one invite code typically every two weeks—meaning current users can choose whom to invite to the platform. The platform is also working through its wait list, said Rose Wang, who leads Bluesky's strategy and operations. The company is limiting access to manage its growth while it builds more moderation tools, Wang said.

"Not to beg, but does anyone in my network happen to have a Bluesky invite they'd be willing to share with me?" Andrew Staub, a 37-year-old in New Freedom, Pa., who works in nonprofit communications, asked on LinkedIn. Staub, who hasn't found an invite so far, said the exclusivity is part of its appeal: "There is definitely that kind of feeling in my head like, 'Hey, I want to be in the club, too.'"

Early Bluesky users can join the likes of Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, celebrity Chrissy Teigen and Jim Farley, chief executive of Ford Motor, a rival to Musk's Tesla.

Bluesky was first announced in 2019 while Dorsey was still chief executive of Twitter, and Bluesky said it formed its own company in 2021 with Dorsey as one of its board members. It looks a lot like Twitter. Users scroll through a feed full of snappy posts limited to 300 characters, plus reposts and likes.

For many, Bluesky has the air of the early days of social media, when people posted about mundane things they were doing, simply because it was novel. As Bluesky has grown, it has begun bumping into challenges long faced by social-media companies, such as debates over content-moderation policies. And exclusivity in social media is no guarantee for success.

> **Bluesky gives new users one invite code typically every two weeks.**

"It has the vibes of old Twitter," said Jessica Quiroga, a 38-year-old engineering manager at Cisco. "It's a little more chaotic, there's less structure."

Stacy King, 52, a children's fantasy writer in Toronto, said she wanted to join Bluesky after seeing others she knew sign up. "I was starting to feel a little bit left out." King secured an invite thanks to a friend and said she has already received queries from others seeking a code. That's created its own dilemma about who should get an invite. "Do I use it for people that I work with, who might like to be part of the network? Or am I using it for friends?" King said. "I'm not good at separating my social media from work things."

Alex van Rossum, 40, who lives in the Atlanta area and works at a marketing company, signed up for Bluesky's wait list, posted on LinkedIn, and queried acquaintances to try to find an invitation. He hasn't had luck so far. "I am not the type of person that wants to go to annoy people and be like, 'Hey, give me that,'" he said. "But then also, I'm dealing with this dichotomy of like, 'I really want it.'"

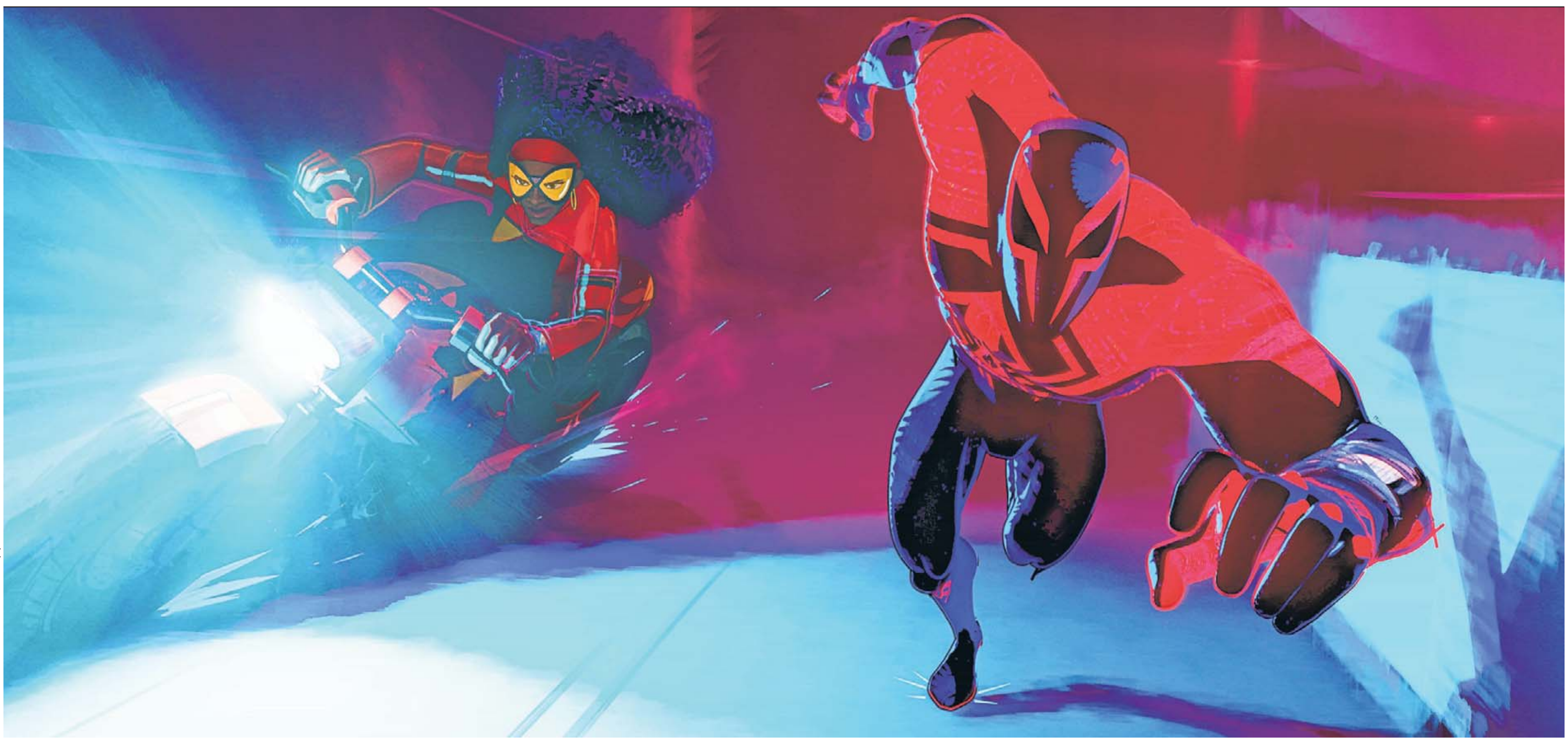
One benefit of joining early, he said, would be snagging his preferred username. "Even if it's not my name," he said, "at least it'll be original and not something with a bunch of numbers after it."

People have set up online groups in search of the codes, and sellers have claimed to offer codes on eBay for $300 to $999. The Wall Street Journal couldn't verify whether the postings were real.

"We heavily discourage anyone from buying invite codes," said Wang, the Bluesky representative. If Bluesky has proof of a user selling invites, Bluesky will revoke invites from that account, Wang said.

Merritt Baer, who lives in Miami and works as a security executive, landed an invite code from her friend. Once she got an extra invite code of her own, she posted about it on Twitter and more than half a dozen people responded, she said. "I figured the only fair thing to do was to actually go with the first folks who responded as long as they weren't obnoxious," she said, adding that it felt "a little bit of like getting your friend into the club."

ARTS IN REVIEW



SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT (2)

FILM REVIEW | KYLE SMITH

'Across the Spider-Verse': A Tangled Web

The sequel to the witty 2018 movie still features delightful animation, but it has a recycled, plodding storyline.

Gwen Stacy (voice of Hailee Steinfeld), Peter B. Parker (Jake Johnson), left; Jessica Drew (Issa Rae) and Miguel O'Hara (Oscar Isaac), above

IT'S EASY TO DISDAIN and deplore (and I do disdain and deplore) the two letters that ate Hollywood: "I.P." But intellectual property is like bread: It's often stale and bland, but it can be fresh and delightful. The latter attributes were evident in every sparkling and witty minute of 2018's animated triumph "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," which posited a multiverse in which all sorts of different Spider-People existed simultaneously in their own worlds rendered in distinct styles of animation. The script reworked 1960s characters and storylines with heart and comic brilliance, plus one of the craftiest and twistiest plotlines of any comic-book blockbuster.

Directed by Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson, the prepositionally adjusted sequel "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" has much of the whimsical energy of its predecessor, particularly in its wildly inventive visuals. But it has a slightly different writing lineup (Phil Lord and Rodney Rothman collaborated on "Into"; Mr. Lord, his "Lego Movie" writing partner Christopher Miller and David Callaham get the credit for "Across") and even its best bits feel like a rehash. It also tries a little too hard to be a cinematic event, for instance by indulging in one too many long monologues that are meant to provide emotional ballast, whereas the earlier outing had the aura of a mischievous and freewheeling experiment. Running two hours and 20 minutes, "Across" loads up with jumpy but not especially engaging action scenes involving battles with bizarre creatures such as a paper version of the villain Vulture that escaped from Leonardo da Vinci's studio in a Renaissance-themed comic-book universe. The artfully layered plotlines of "Into" have been displaced by a more conventionally hectic series of clashes.

Gwen Stacy (voiced by Hailee Steinfeld), a teen Spider-Woman in a hoodie, now exists in a different universe from Miles Morales (Shameik Moore), the engagingly inexperienced 15-year-old Afro-Latino Brooklyn version of Spider-Man we met in "Into." The two reunite via a multiverse-spanning elite squad of Spider-cops who are trying to repair the anomalies and inconsistencies that have erupted in the various alternate realities that sprang up in the previous film. When away from their home worlds, these universe-jumpers glitch and fade like a cellphone signal in a dead zone, but (hokey gizmo alert) a watch fixes this problem. The head of the police team is a hulking Spider-Man from the year 2099 named Miguel O'Hara (Oscar Isaac), assisted by a pregnant Spider-Woman (Issa Rae).

Much of the first hour of the film is devoted to family squabbles (Brian Tyree Henry and Luna Lauren Vélez are Miles's police officer-dad and nurse mom; Gwen's dad is also a cop, voiced by Shea Whigham, who doesn't know about her other identity) and to a series of battles with a goofy new antagonist, the Spot (Jason Schwartzman), whom we meet in the not-very-nefarious act of trying to rob an ATM in a bodega. Spot is a bumbling doofus and gets far too much screen time considering he's a third-rate malefactor. Gwen correctly derides him as a "villain of the week." The long fight scenes built around him get a bit repetitive, given that he isn't the center of the story.

As visually hypercaffeinated as the film is—mixing animation styles, cramming the screen with imagery, and cutting rapidly around each donnybrook—it's a bit sleepy when it comes to the plot, which doesn't really kick in until the second half of the movie. That's when we learn that Miles has "broken the canon," or interfered with certain cornerstones of the multiverse that are meant to be stable. Saving people is a superhero's duty but, it turns out, saving the people who were supposed to die in the master plan can mess up all of the worlds of the multiverse.

How is Miles supposed to know whom he's allowed to save, however? Why rescue anyone if sparing a life might actually cost many lives? Why bother with superheroics at all? You'd think that in a movie this long such Calvinist implications might be at least considered. But "Across" is more interested in swarming the screen with funny new Spider-folk than in defining its own internal logic. There's a long digression about the origins of an Indian Spider-Man (Karan Soni) from a universe where Mumbai and Manhattan are melded into "Mumbattan," followed by another about the Johnny Rotten of superheroes, "Spider-Punk" (Daniel Kaluuya). All of this is amusing, but also amounts to piling on new analogues to those hilariously unexpected supporting characters we met in 2018, the pig Spider-Ham and the moody Nicolas Cage-voiced Spider-Man Noir.

Miles's struggle to save one person without ruining everything gets complicated, yielding an ending in the middle of a scene. The next chapter, "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse," is coming soon, due next spring, but I'm baffled why a studio would end a tentpole release leaving the audience groaning with frustration. Do we have to travel to another universe to see a version with a knockout conclusion?

MUSIC REVIEW

The Voice of a Nashville Veteran

By Barry Mazor

JASON QUIGLEY

'Music Man,' out now, is the new record by Layng Martine Jr.

Throughout the history of music production in Nashville, there have been successful, esteemed songwriters who may have seen themselves as potential performers but are less well known because, by choice or by fate, their focus narrowed to writing only. They may well be celebrated by insiders and fellow practitioners, but not so much by the larger audience for celebrity singer-songwriters.

Layng Martine Jr. is a case in point. He's an inducted member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, yet few outside of the songwriting community would have known him before his poignant 2019 memoir, "Permission to Fly," spelled out his story—from errand boy for Benny Goodman, to apprenticeship in the pop circles of New York's Brill Building in its early '60s heyday, and on to Nashville's Music Row and hard-fought but lasting success.

Working across the country/pop borderlines, he's had songs recorded by the British Invasion's Dave Clark, by the Pointer Sisters and Barry Manilow, as well as by Reba McEntire, Trisha Yearwood, Ray Stevens, Tanya Tucker, Jerry Lee Lewis and Robbie Fulks. His most celebrated songs are "Rub It In," a 1974 No. 1 hit for Billy "Crash" Craddock, and "Way Down," which in 1976 was the last new charting number for Elvis Presley. Both of those have been recorded by over 20 others.

He could always sing but didn't focus on it, and few ever heard him; his vocalizing was limited to song-demonstration records and a few small-label singles in the '70s that functioned as little more than demos for others as well. (His own version of "Rub It In," preceding the hit, was his only charting record—at No. 65 in 1971.) Yet now, at age 81, he has an intriguingly contemporary album of his own, "Music Man" (Bloodshot), featuring songs he'd written across the decades since 1964.

It came about because his son, Grammy-nominated engineer, producer and keyboardist Tucker Martine, who has worked with performers of quite a different generation—R.E.M., My Morning Jacket, Beth Orton and Neko Case, for example—thought recording some tracks with his dad would make for a nice Christmas present for him. He brought in the likes of Bill Frisell and Peter Buck on guitars, and K.D. Lang as a backup singer, with Drive-By Truckers' Patterson Hood contributing admiring liner notes.

Metaphorical connections that the senior Mr. Martine had made in his compositions all through the years are a clue to a way that a man born in 1942—raised in Connecticut and a master of mainstream Nashville musical idioms—can relate to latter-day indie rockers. In much of his work, the musical and the sensual have been portrayed in an airtight clinch. "Way Down" referred to feelings "way down where the music plays," but nobody misses that it's not just the tune that's stirring. In "Music Man," the title track here—written in 1974 and now provided with an expansive, open-spaces roots-rock sound—Mr. Martine, apparently as a midnight DJ now home, sings, "Baby I am / your music man / I'm gonna fill your soul with song." I believe listeners will get the picture there, too. In choosing which of his father's songs to revisit, Tucker Martine has emphasized these thematic tendencies.

During his decades-long career, the 81-year-old songwriter has mostly stayed behind the scenes.

Given how voices so often deteriorate in range and clarity by the time singers get up over 80, it's good to be able to report that Layng Martine Jr. is entirely capable of handling, still, the broad range of genre styles, speeds and variations in thickness or lightness of production that get put to work here. The father's singing and son's production choices serve the tracks, and that's clearly what they were after.

In songs the senior Martine wrote before age 30, the teenager of the 1950s shows through, in that the links between music and physical intimacy often bring to mind cars—speeding around in them in updated rockabilly ("Love You Back to Georgia"), or falling for a girl who's singing at a drive-up food window, with harder-core country steel guitar swelling ("Summertime Lovin'"). There are also calm ballads originally recorded by such gentle, laid-back crooners as Jody Miller ("Try Me Again") and Glen Yarbrough ("Let the World Go By"). The latter is one of several songs that focus on a continuing secondary theme, taking things as they come, taking it easy—a mood more likely to be heard in the "party, then chill" themes of today's country, so those are curiously ahead of their time.

Mr. Martine created new material right through enormous changes in the sounds that dominated country and pop in that 1960s-to-21st-century expanse, but there are telling indications of his ties to more traditional country in his songs that recognize prices paid for choices in love and life ("I Can't Be What You Want"; "Love Comes and Goes") and a story song that has the narrator, haunted by a lost love, bolting from town to town on pipeline jobs, trying and failing to forget ("Get Your Things").

They don't write them like that much any more, and it's a real kick to hear the sound and sensibility of a veteran who always has.

Mr. Mazor reviews country and roots music for the Journal.

ARTS IN REVIEW

Jay O. Sanders, William Jackson Harper and Eric Berryman

THEATER REVIEW | CHARLES ISHERWOOD

Truth and Tenderness

An isolated man finds himself adrift as his small town changes

New York

As a man forced to break out of years of self-imposed isolation, in the new play "Primary Trust," William Jackson Harper gives a performance of such transparency and tenderness that audience members may find themselves fighting the urge to rush the stage and give him a big hug. Or discreetly hand him a Kleenex or two.

Eboni Booth's comedy-drama, a Roundabout Theatre Company production, is so disarmingly gentle in spirit, and populated by sympathetic characters, that it feels like a throwback—the size of a Hail Mary pass (successful)—to another theatrical era. While it features characters of different races, matters of what are now generically referred to as "identity politics" play no part. Its historical antecedents specifically include Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1944 comedy "Harvey," about a man's friendship with a giant imaginary rabbit.

That's because one of the characters in "Primary Trust" is in fact a fantasy figure, albeit a human one, conjured by Mr. Harper's character, Kenneth, to provide him with company in his reclusive, friendless life. Virtually every night, Kenneth and his invisible bestie, Bert (a buoyant Eric Berryman), share a table at Kenneth's favorite haunt, the tiki restaurant Wally's, with Kenneth ordering too many Mai Tais as they pass the time exchanging news—to the fascinated puzzlement of the staff.

The setting, conjured in lovely miniature by designer Marsha Ginsberg, is a medium-size suburb of Rochester, N.Y., a town called Cranberry—perhaps an allusion to the wholesome television town of Mayberry, from "The Andy Griffith Show." Cranberry, by its looks, is losing what meager population it once had. (The House of Shoes appears defunct, with only ghostly images of its former signage.) This is where Kenneth has spent virtually all his life, placidly content with the company of Bert. But an unexpected and unwelcome change in his circumstances sets Kenneth on his halting odyssey out of his emotional cocoon and into the world.

Sam (Jay O. Sanders), the owner of the bookstore where Kenneth has long worked, announces that on doctor's orders he and his wife are moving to Arizona, and he's closing up the shop. Mr. Sanders, one of the New York theater's most invaluable character actors, plays Sam with a bluff paternal geniality that indicates his deep affection for Kenneth. He is even aware of and casually accepts the unseen presence of Bert, asking just before he breaks the bad news, "Is your friend here?"

Although Kenneth consults Bert about his predicament, the advice that sets him on a new path comes from Corrina, a new waitress at Wally's, who is played, as all the waitstaff of both genders at the restaurant are, by a wonderfully warm April Matthis. She suggests that Kenneth could get a job at a bank, which strikes a chord, since Kenneth's mother had worked in a bank; Kenneth aces the interview at Primary Trust with the manager, Clay, also played by Mr. Sanders, with a backslapping gusto and misty-eyed memories of high-school football triumphs.

"Primary Trust," directed with a gossamer touch by Knud Adams, is primarily a character study, with Kenneth often addressing the audience directly, most movingly—in fact devastatingly—when he reveals what led him to the invention of Bert, shortly after Kenneth's mother died when he was 10 years old. Mr. Harper brings scraped-raw feeling to these passages (hence the reference to hugs and Kleenex), yet slips easily back into the character within the frame of the play, which is quiet and congenial, albeit painfully introverted.

But a few incidents begin cracking apart the shell that Kenneth has built around himself, most notably a budding friendship with Corrina, whom he impulsively asks out for a drink—without Bert—one evening. Their casual friendship brings out a soft new glow in Mr. Harper's performance as Kenneth, although a tense exchange with Bert at the bank one day causes Kenneth to become distracted, with potentially disastrous results. (Ms. Matthis also, and with delightful dexterity, plays all the customers.)

Ms. Booth's writing has a clarity, simplicity and bloom that are increasingly rare in contemporary plays; as mentioned, "Primary Trust" harks back to a less angst-ridden era of American playwriting. I certainly thought of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" as Kenneth described both the current state of Cranberry and its uncertain, or maybe gentrified, future.

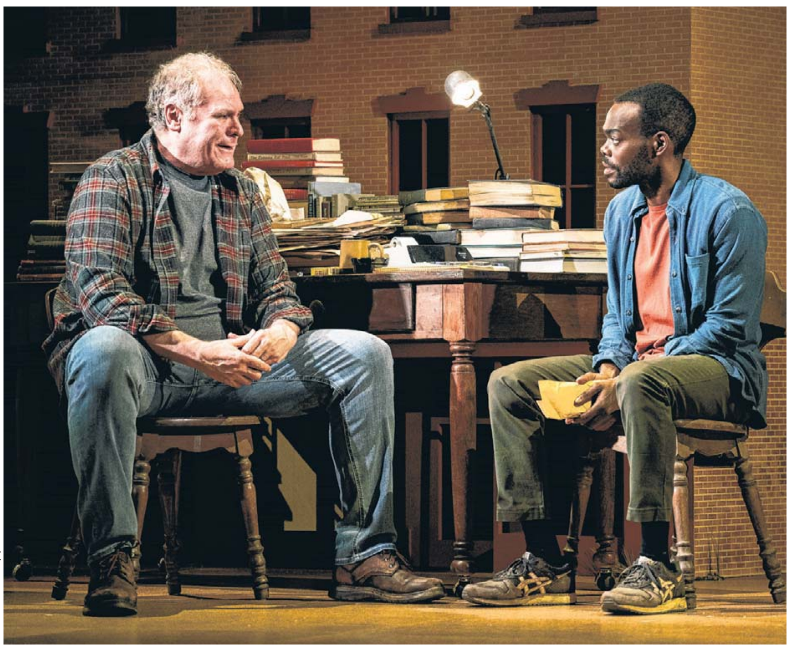
The production has other grace notes. Although there are just four actors, a fifth participant, the musician and composer Luke Wygodny, plays an important role. He wrote the lovely incidental music, but also performs it live and also often rings a bell—the kind old hotels used to have to summon help, but also present at Kenneth's bank—that signals a fast-forward in the dialogue or action.

"Primary Trust" may strike some as drenched in sweetness, given our furrowed-brow, end-of-days times. (Did people still pardon their French after a profanity, as more than one does here, even in the era "before cell phones," the vague time period in which the contemporary-feeling play is set?) But thanks to the humanity that suffuses the entire production, there isn't a trace of the artifice that could tip the play into saccharine territory. It's a moving story, clearly and effectively told, only startling because such plays have become virtual unicorns.

Primary Trust
Laura Pels Theatre, Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre, 111 W. 46th St., New York, $56-$78, 212-719-1300, closes July 2

Mr. Isherwood is the Journal's theater critic.

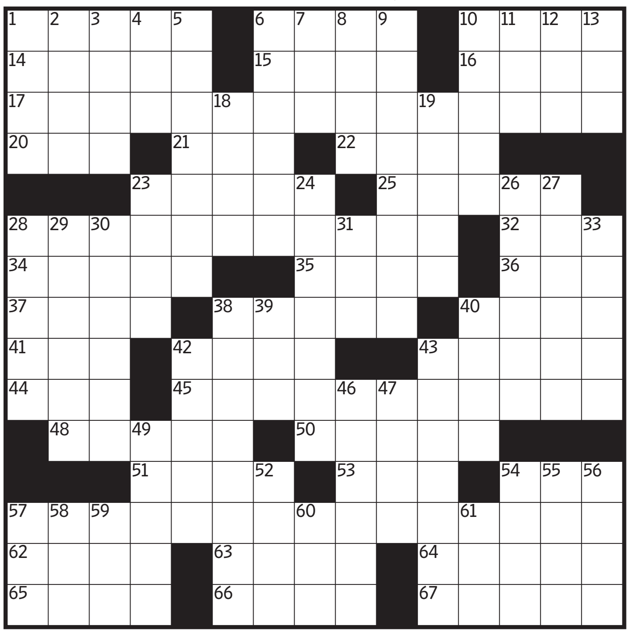
April Matthis, above, and Mr. Sanders and Mr. Harper, below, in Eboni Booth's comedy-drama 'Primary Trust'



JOAN MARCUS (3)

The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk

PUZZLE CONTEST



COUPLES ONLY | By Matt Gaffney

The answer to this week's contest crossword is a four-letter word.

Across

1 Best-liked flicks, say
6 Toffee bar
10 Spiced drink
14 Tapenade ingredient
15 Busy road
16 Mined material
17 "Desperately Seeking Susan" star
20 Starbucks option
21 Failure of a firecracker
22 Godmother, often
23 The Dead Sea's region
25 Cake shop workers, often
28 Collection of funny outtakes
32 Part of the DOJ
34 Some are HOV
35 City on seven hills
36 Ring of flowers
37 Sheared shes
38 It's raised at a wedding
40 Shielded from storms, say
41 "You are!" retort
42 Long period, in London
43 Kind of poem
44 Turner of note
45 Help a child find a lost puppy, e.g.
48 Schnozz-related
50 New York Harbor island
51 Rangers goalie Shesterkin
53 End-of-Ramadan holiday
54 Fall behind
57 The Army-Navy game, e.g.
62 "How're things going?" reply
63 Lionel Richie's show, briefly
64 Best
65 Pop in music
66 Innermost
67 Wee hour

Down

1 Common couch cushion configuration
2 Soothing stuff
3 Traveler's document
4 Marcille or Mendes
5 Parodies
6 James of "The Blacklist"
7 Soul or Telluride
8 Slimy side
9 Mass movements?
10 The Minotaur's island
11 Very popular at the moment
12 False front
13 1950s prez
18 Without a stitch on
19 "I give up!"
23 Trader ___
24 Put in order
26 Race over public roads
27 "Remington ___" (1980s show)
28 Goat's sound
29 Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, e.g.
30 Largest lake entirely in New York state
31 Goddess seen at dawn
33 Area of study
38 Earth-related
39 Mauna ___
40 Tacks on
42 Wise words
43 "You calling me a liar?"
46 Flamenco cheer
47 Hodgepodge
49 Like some pajamas
52 Second try
54 Behind
55 Alan with six Emmys
56 ___ onto (become attached)
57 102, in letters
58 Common three-letter text
59 Captain's journal
60 In place of
61 Dog holder

Previous Puzzle's Solution

C	A	L	M	■	W	A	L	K	■	I	N	F	O	R
I	D	E	A	■	A	L	O	E	■	K	E	A	N	E
R	I	A	L	■	S	L	O	B	■	E	S	S	E	X
C	O	P	A	C	AB	A	N	AB	E	A	C	H	■	■
A	S	S	I	S	I	■	Y	S	L	■	A	I	N	T
■	■	■	S	I	P	S	■	■	F	AB	F	O	U	R
R	I	S	E	■	E	A	S	T	■	B	E	N	D	Y
E	M	O	■	S	A	N	T	AB	AB	Y	■	E	G	O
H	O	L	S	T	■	K	Y	L	O	■	E	D	E	N
AB	U	D	H	AB	I	■	■	A	M	I	D	■	■	■
S	T	I	R	■	C	E	O	■	I	C	I	C	L	E
■	■	E	I	G	H	T	M	I	N	U	T	E	AB	S
N	O	R	M	A	■	H	E	R	A	■	W	E	E	P
A	D	O	P	T	■	E	G	O	T	■	A	L	L	Y
T	E	N	S	E	■	L	A	N	E	■	R	O	S	S

▸ Email your answer—in the subject line—to **crosswordcontest@wsj.com** by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time Sunday, June 4. A solver selected at random will win a WSJ mug. Last week's winner: Joseph Chaput, Des Plaines, IL. Complete contest rules at **WSJ.com/Puzzles**. (No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. U.S. residents 18 and over only.)

SPORTS

JASON GAY

South Florida's Double Shot at History

The NBA's Miami Heat and the NHL's Florida Panthers have both made surprising title runs

Never happened.

There are more than a few milestones in sports history that have famously not occurred. The Seattle Mariners have never made it to a World Series. The Detroit Lions haven't reached a Super Bowl. (Won the 1935, 1952, 1953 and 1957 NFL Championship, yes. A Super Bowl? No.) There has never been a golf tournament that won't make people fall asleep on the couch. I have never had a conversation about fantasy sports that I haven't wanted to flee, screaming, after 90 seconds.

Another feat that's never happened in sports history is shockingly on the verge—or at least as close to the verge as it has been in a long time:

A single sports region has never won the NBA Championship and the NHL Stanley Cup in the same season.

Not New York, not Boston, not Chicago, not Philly. Not even Burlington, Vt.

Never, ever. And they have been playing basketball and hockey, for a long time—like since before people had answering machines.

Boston has had three shots with the Celtics and Bruins—1956-57 (Bruins lost), 1957-58 (both lost) and 1973-74 (Bruins lost). New York tried it with the Rangers and Knicks in 1971-72 (both lost) and 1993-94 (Knicks lost). Philadelphia missed in 1979-80 (both the Flyers and Sixers lost) and Chicago missed (Bulls won, Blackhawks lost) in 1991-92. New Jersey (!) got halfway there with the Devils and Nets in 2002-03 (Devils won).

The most recent attempt came in the Bay Area in 2016, when both the basketball Warriors and the San Jose Sharks lost in their championship rounds.

This time, it's on the precipice in South Florida—yes, South Florida, that great mecca of wintertime professional sports. The hockey Panthers (who play in Sunrise, Fla.) are in the Stanley Cup versus Las Vegas. The hooping Heat (30 minutes down the road in Miami) are in the NBA Finals against Denver.

Matthew Tkachuk (Florida Panthers) and Jimmy Butler (Miami Heat) could do a road movie together.

CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES; MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

It will be hard, for sure. The Heat are considered long shots against Nikola Jokic and the highly favored Nuggets. The Panthers, who play Vegas on the road in Game 1 Saturday, have been riding a remarkable heater for more than a month.

If it happened, it would be one of the more remarkable sports stories ever. Not just because it's never occurred. Not just because you're going to hear about it from every friend who's ever moved to South Florida—and they already can't stop talking about how great it is down there.

It's because of the nature of the two teams.

The Heat and Panthers have quite a bit in common. Neither club was expected to be playing in June. If we're being honest, neither club was expected to be playing in May. The Panthers and Heat were late arrivals to the playoffs—the Heat had to win a play-in tournament slot to get there—and began their runs as lowly eighth seeds.

Then the Panthers stunned hockey by defeating the Boston Bruins—the winningest regular season team in hockey history—in round one. The Heat knocked off top seed Milwaukee, sending the Bucks into existential turmoil.

It was on. There was already positive energy in the region from the NCAA Final Four featuring surprise appearances from the Miami Hurricanes and Florida Atlantic Owls—but the Heat and the Panthers have taken it to a new level.

(South Floridians also want to throw local and newly crowned PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka in there, too. Sure! Throw Brooks in there—he's shown up to Panthers and Heat games lately, too.)

Now if you're sitting there saying, *Well, technically the Heat and Panthers don't play in the same city*....I dare you to say that to a Heat/Panthers (Hot Cats) fan with tickets to an extraordinary double feature (Heat-Panthers-Heat-Panthers) from Wednesday to Saturday next week.

It's the same area, same market, same traffic. It counts.

The Heat, of course, have won three NBA titles before, the last in 2013. The Panthers, launched as an expansion team for the 1993-94 season, made it to the Stanley Cup once, in 1996, only to be swept by the Colorado Avalanche.

The current Heat and Panthers are quite aware of each other's successes—and their similar underdog DNA. Heat underboss Jimmy Butler was spotted taking practice shots (in Boston, ouch) wearing a Matthew Tkachuk Panthers jersey. Tkachuk showed up at a Heat-Celtics playoff game to return the love—though that was complicated, as he also went to high school in St. Louis with Boston's Jayson Tatum.

Butler and Tkachuk could do a road movie together. Both have turned the postseason into a playpen. Both don't seem to mind playing the nemesis/villain. Both now inhabit the nightmares of every sports fan in New England.

Now both are on the verge of stunning sports history. I never dreamed it would be possible in South Florida. It's far too early to plan the joint parade, but...

It's never happened. Until now?

Padres Spent Big, Then Lost TV Deal

Continued from Page One

bankruptcy proceedings.

The move triggered changes to where and how fans watch its games and is altering how the Padres get paid for game broadcasts. The team has become a test case for how teams and leagues will navigate the transition from lucrative agreements with regional sports networks, funded by consumer cable bills, to new streaming deals that are unlikely to generate close to the same amount of revenue.

The Padres may just be the first team facing this problem as baseball confronts issues with its local TV model. Others with coming payments due from Diamond include the Cincinnati Reds and Texas Rangers. While league officials and player representatives don't believe the Padres' ability to make payroll is in imminent danger, the shift is nonetheless a disruption to the sport's economic model.

The Padres' financial situation has been a topic of fascination across baseball since the small-market team began splashing out on player pay in 2019, the year it signed a $300 million, decadelong contract with Manny Machado. Since then, the third baseman has helped recruit other star players whom the team has paid hefty sums, and the Padres extended his contract.

Its spending on player pay has exceeded what other small-market owners have said they can spend on payroll because of limited club revenue, leaving baseball insiders wondering where the Padres expected to get the money to pay their superstars. On Tuesday, the industry got a partial answer—it won't be coming from their long-established local television deal.

Diamond filed for bankruptcy earlier this year, weighed down by $8 billion in debt and continued cable cord-cutting, but has continued to make all or part of some payments it owes to baseball, basketball and hockey teams whose games it broadcasts. Before and during its bankruptcy, it has pushed Major League Baseball teams for the rights to stream regional baseball games in addition to broadcasting them on TV, but not all teams have been receptive to its overtures.

The missed Padres payment Tuesday, which was supposed to be about $12 million to $13 million, according to people familiar with the matter, is the first that Diamond's board has decided to skip entirely. Diamond's decision not to pay gave the team the right to terminate its contract with the media company, which the Padres did.

Major League Baseball quickly announced that it would begin broadcasting the Padres games. Fans in San Diego will be able to stream the games on MLB's in-house streaming service, MLB.tv, for $19.99 a month—the same monthly price as a subscription to Diamond's streaming service.

The San Diego Padres have a payroll of about $250 million.

MANUEL BALCE CENETA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB also struck deals to distribute the games via streaming service Fubo, satellite operator DirecTV and cable providers Spectrum and Cox. MLB had discussed contingency distribution plans with the providers before the missed payment, as a backup plan if Diamond was unable to broadcast games, people familiar with the matter said. No money has changed hands in the agreements so far, which are currently short-term, but may result in long-term contracts, people familiar said.

The league is providing an emergency financial backstop for the Padres, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said Wednesday during a bankruptcy proceeding related to another set of Diamond's regional sports network rights. He said teams would receive 80% of the value of their contracts if Diamond doesn't pay them.

In that proceeding, Diamond sought court approval to reduce the fees it pays to the Diamondbacks, Twins, Guardians and Rangers, claiming that the value of those broadcast rights have declined materially from when the contracts were negotiated. Lawyers for MLB and the teams argued that they should only be required to provide their game content to Diamond if the company continues to pay the rates that they agreed upon in their contracts.

The judge overseeing Diamond's bankruptcy proceedings sided with the MLB in a court decision Thursday night, ruling that while Diamond can decide whether to continue or reject the contracts, it must pay for them at the agreed-upon contract rate as long as it continues to broadcast the games.

—Joe Flint and Alexander Gladstone contributed to this article.

LIV Golf Faces Renewed Scrutiny

BY LOUISE RADNOFSKY AND ANDREW BEATON

LIV GOLF'S TIES TO ITS SAUDI backers are coming under increased scrutiny after a now-former vendor for the upstart golf league registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for the first time.

The filing under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, made by the public relations firm Gitcho Goodwin, breaks ranks on LIV's own position that the new league doesn't need to register under the law—and by doing so, may expose the circuit and other firms working on its behalf to additional legal complications.

Lawyers who specialize in FARA law say that it wouldn't be surprising for the Justice Department to respond to a vendor's filing by sending letters of inquiry to other vendors working for the same foreign entity, asking whether they should be registering as well.

"That instantly raises questions," said Matthew Sanderson, who leads the political law group at Caplin and Drysdale and specializes in advising clients on FARA. "It's never fun for a consultant or vendor to get one of those letters of inquiry."

The Justice Department declined to comment.

A lawyer representing Gitcho Goodwin said that, four days after the FARA filing, its relationship with LIV came to an end.

LIV has maintained that it doesn't have to submit filings to the Justice Department under FARA because it's advocating for golf, not Saudi Arabia's political interests.

"LIV Golf cannot speak to what a subcontractor of one of our vendors may do or think. LIV Golf is in compliance with all applicable U.S. laws, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act," a LIV spokesman said in a statement. "We are developing a new commercial enterprise designed to advance the global game of golf and improve the opportunities for players and the fan experience."

The LIV spokesman didn't comment on whether Gitcho Goodwin was fired for registering.

FARA, a 1938 law enacted to monitor Nazi propagandists, requires agents of a foreign government to disclose their political and public relations activities in the U.S. The law also allows for commercial exemptions based on certain criteria.

Whether LIV qualifies for those is murky. Even Gitcho Goodwin's filing said it was done "out of an abundance of caution." But it's a question that carries enormous importance.

That's because the transparency demands on FARA registrants are extensive.

LIV registering under FARA would require it to publicly share details of its business operations, including potentially juicy information—how much it paid golfers to sign on, or its deals with a golf course operator such as former President Donald Trump to host a LIV event.

"That's exactly the purpose of FARA," said Amy Jeffress, a partner at Arnold & Porter who specializes in the subject area.

Both the Tour and LIV Golf have engaged small armies of consultants as they fight over the future of golf.

It's a battle being waged across federal courts, the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, Congress and American public opinion, with both sides wielding and taking hits.

LIV, which has lured away stars like Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson with record prizes and lucrative appearance fees, has accused the PGA Tour of acting as an illegal monopolist to quash a nascent rival that wants to shake up a stagnant sport.

The Tour has focused many of its criticisms around Saudi Arabia, which has a checkered record on human rights, and Tour commissioner Jay Monahan last year criticized it as "a foreign monarchy that is spending billions of dollars in an attempt to buy the game of golf."

"I think LIV has been a great thing for Saudi Arabia, for the image of Saudi Arabia," Trump said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal last year. "I think it's going to be an incredible investment from that standpoint, and that's more valuable than lots of other things because you can't buy that—even with billions of dollars."

The May 25 filings by Gitcho Goodwin say that, in February, it agreed with GP3 Partners, another communications company, to provide strategic communications services to LIV.

Doug Mayer, a partner with GP3, said the firm is in compliance with all U.S. laws, including FARA.

David Laufman, a lawyer representing Gitcho Goodwin, said in a statement that his client is no longer working for LIV.

LIV Golf has lured stars such as Brooks Koepka, above, with record prizes and lucrative appearance fees.

GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY SPORTS

OPINION

McCarthy Earns the Speakership

POTOMAC WATCH
By Kimberley A. Strassel

A week can feel like an eon in Washington, while six months passes in a flash. As Kevin McCarthy triumphantly caps this long week of a debt-ceiling showdown, his painful January feels like a distant memory.

The House speaker notched a real win this week, when the House passed 314-117 a spending-reform bill negotiated almost entirely on Republican terms. The legislation is no panacea to federal ills, though it marks a sharp reversal from 18 months of Biden White House dominance. Equally important, it sent a loud message: Republicans can govern.

What a turnabout. Amid a "humiliating" 15 ballots to be elected speaker in January, the press insisted Mr. McCarthy was crippled, the token head of a "ragged GOP" stumbling "through the wilderness," assuming a speakership that would be a "nightmare" as it failed to manage "MAGA radicals," "rebels" and "anarchy." As recently as mid-April, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer smirked on the sidelines, chiding Mr. McCarthy not to "bother with partisan wish lists" given that he lacked the GOP votes to pass them.

The dynamic changed entirely one week later, when the Californian got his four-vote majority to deliver the only debt-ceiling bill in town, forcing the White House to the table. That was the master stroke, and it's worth dissecting how Mr. McCarthy did it. Because it wasn't Lady Fortune or a sudden outbreak of GOP kumbaya. It was a deliberate, well-considered strategy that required hard work.

Nancy Pelosi's success with her narrow majority flowed from the iron fist she brought down on recalcitrants. That doesn't work in the more unruly GOP, as past Republican speakers will attest. And the John Boehner approach of stiff-arming the party's more conservative wing also produced some spectacular blow-ups—including Mr. Boehner's own.

Mr. McCarthy's strategy was to embrace his right—and his center, and his defense hawks, and his culture warriors, and everybody else—and to give the whole crew ownership. Mrs. Pelosi delivered marching orders; Mr. McCarthy decentralized. He gave the leaders of all five of his caucuses a seat at the leadership table and set the well-respected Louisiana Rep. Garret Graves to days and months of discussions. This wasn't an elite few dictating a bill; it was an entire conference hammering out the delicate trade-offs that became the April product. That built buy-in.

The McCarthy team also wisely used those months to build trust by sticking to promises made during the speaker battle—in particular vows to return the House to regular order. In a Congress that had increasingly looked like a dictatorship, this produced a sea change. Members for the first time in years are conducting business in committees—holding markups, offering amendments, having debates. The devolution reassured the party that the McCarthy team had no intention of pulling a high-handed debt-ceiling fast one, even as it deepened personal relationships and added to civility.

The debt-ceiling vote was the product of a deliberate, well-considered strategy.

This approach has yielded far more than the April bill. The House GOP passed an ambitious energy reform in March and sweeping border legislation in May—again, despite a minuscule margin and competing agendas. While these are messaging bills—dead in the Senate—House Republicans are also unified on votes that put the White House on the back foot. Mr. Biden has been forced to veto House-Senate Congressional Review Act resolutions against his key regulations—including rules on waterways, ESG investing, and solar tariffs. And House Republicans collected enough Democrats on their vote to overturn a lenient District of Columbia crime bill to compel Mr. Biden to sign it.

Mr. McCarthy couldn't have negotiated a deal with this president that would satisfy the Freedom Caucus. But it's a testament to his approach that two-thirds of his members this week voted for his final product—in a party congenitally averse to debt-ceiling hikes, and despite press predictions he'd fail to get even half. (In past fights this century, only 24% of House Republicans voted to raise the debt ceiling under a Democratic president.) Yes, House Democrats provided more votes—though only because they chose not to undercut further their unpopular candidate for re-election. House progressives revolted—a better measure of the bill's reform contents.

The McCarthy outreach helps explain why threats to oust him this week came from a few loudmouthed limelighters and are unlikely to go anywhere. Even many of the most vocal Republican opponents of the bill praised the efforts of the negotiators, as well as Mr. McCarthy's insistence that the bill receive 72 hours of public review.

Does the speaker still face rough seas ahead? You bet. He'll have to do this all over again for other must-pass bills, and it may not turn out as well. But at least he has a formula. His success this week came in proving that it is possible to unify Republicans, and in demonstrating the power that comes with that unity. Mr. McCarthy won the speakership in January. This week, he earned it.

Write to kim@wsj.com.

California Catholics Under Attack

HOUSES OF WORSHIP
By Salvatore Cordileone

"History never repeats itself," Mark Twain is supposed to have said. "But it rhymes." Consider the American Catholic Church over the past two centuries.

In 1834, a frenzied mob attacked and burned to the ground a convent of Ursuline nuns outside Boston. The act was the culmination of years of anti-Catholic preaching and aggression toward the church's property. None of the firemen present intervened, and some reportedly joined the riot. Later that century, the Know Nothing Party emerged to suppress the rights of German and Irish Catholic immigrants, fearful of a Catholic conspiracy to take over the country.

Not long after that, the Ku Klux Klan began to terrorize black Americans, Catholics and Jews. In 1921 an enraged Klansman fatally shot Father James Coyle after the priest celebrated the wedding of the gunman's Catholic-convert daughter to a Puerto Rican man. The killer was acquitted at trial by a Klansman judge and Klan-filled jury.

Our nation is now struggling to come to terms with its history of racism. Yet universally ignored is its long, deep and sordid history of anti-Catholicism. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reports that "at least 260 incidents"—attacks on church property—"have occurred across 43 states and the District of Columbia since May 2020." The behavior runs the gamut, from arson to spray-painting, beheading and toppling statues, to defacing gravestones with swastikas and anti-Catholic messages. Arrests in these cases, and especially prosecutions, have been extremely rare.

One who was arrested is John David Corey, who in July 2020 set a devastating fire at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, the historic Los Angeles-area church founded by St. Junípero Serra in 1771. Law enforcement told local news at the time that Mr. Corey had a history of conflict with the Catholic Church. In December 2022 he was ordered to stand trial on several counts of arson and burglary, to which he has pleaded not guilty.

Our brothers and sisters in Los Angeles aren't alone. Catholics in the San Francisco area have weathered our share of attacks too. In October 2020, protesters trespassed onto the property of Mission San Rafael carrying paint, tools and rope with the intention of desecrating and destroying a beloved statue of St. Junípero Serra. Five perpetrators were later charged with felony vandalism.

Yet on May 25, the Marin County district attorney's office decided to resolve the case through "an innovative restorative justice solution"—reducing the charges to a misdemeanor if the defendants were willing to say "I'm sorry" and pay an unspecified sum toward restitution, along with other minor stipulations. In other words: Mea culpa, nothing else to see here.

Catholics believe in contrition, but we also believe in justice. This is neither. These five committed a felony, which was witnessed, recorded and widely publicized.

Vandals get off with a misdemeanor charge for defacing a statue as police looked on.

Damage to the saint's statue—which was sprayed with red paint and dragged to the ground—is estimated as high as $40,000, the parish told me.

Worse yet, officers from the San Rafael Police Department saw the crime in real time and decided to "observe the demonstration and not intervene" for fear of escalation. Never mind that what transpired was hardly a "demonstration." Parish leaders told me that the police violated a promise they made with the church to step up if protesters trespassed on the property.

A felony charge is the least reparation that can be made to Catholics in the Bay Area who are deeply disturbed by this attack. The district attorney has instead given the signal that attacks on our houses of worship and sacred images may continue without serious legal consequence.

History teaches that when we don't treat religiously or racially motivated crime seriously, we will see more and worse aggression. Already we are witnessing what such laxity has wrought across America. Transgender activists on social media have threatened heinous violence against Christian "transphobes" who don't subscribe to their ideology.

In California, this menacing behavior has taken the form of mockery. The Los Angeles Dodgers' recent decision to give a "community hero" award to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence—a group that perversely dresses up as nuns while encouraging lewd and sacrilegious behavior—is the latest example of mainstreaming derision of the Catholic faith.

Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez has asked us to respond to this latest outrage in a deeply Christian fashion: namely, ridding any resentment in our own hearts and reaching out to our communities' Catholic sisters. That's important, but faithful Catholics would also do well to warn their political leaders from becoming modern Know Nothings.

Archbishop Cordileone leads the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco.

The School-Choice Century

By Michael Bindas

This has been a banner year for the educational choice movement. State legislatures have greatly expanded educational opportunity through programs that give families alternatives to public schools. The foundation for this success, however, was laid a century ago—by a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Nebraska.

That teacher was Robert T. Meyer. On June 4, 1923, the U.S. Supreme Court set aside Meyer's conviction for the "crime" of teaching German through the reading of Bible verses at a Lutheran school.

In a wave of anti-immigrant hysteria following World War I, the National Education Association championed the passage of "language laws" that restricted or even prohibited the teaching of foreign languages. Nebraska's law provided that "no person, individually or as a teacher, shall, in any private, denominational, parochial or public school, teach any subject to any person in any language other than the English language." Like the NEA's support several decades earlier of the anti-Catholic Blaine Amendments, which prevented public funds from going to parochial schools, its championing of language laws was rooted in nativism.

The key Supreme Court decision dates back to June 4, 1923.

Meyer was charged with violating Nebraska's law, convicted and fined a full month's salary, $25. He escaped a possible 30-day jail sentence. The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the conviction, but Meyer refused to pay the fine and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In *Meyer v. Nebraska,* the justices reversed the conviction and held the law unconstitutional. According to the court, Meyer's "right . . . to teach and the right of parents to engage him so to instruct their children" were "within the liberty" protected by the 14th Amendment. By banning the teaching of foreign languages, Nebraska had unconstitutionally interfered with Meyer's "calling" and with "the power of parents to control the education of their own."

Meyer v. Nebraska is a powerful recognition of the right of parents, rather than the state, to direct the education of their children. As the court bluntly put it when discussing *Meyer* in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), "The child is not the mere creature of the state."

Children are each unique. They have distinct educational needs, and even the best public school won't be the best school for every child.

Yet many families can't afford private-school tuition or a home in a zone where the public school will better serve them. By providing financial assistance for alternatives, educational choice programs enable these parents to access an education that will best meet their children's needs. These programs empower parents to exercise the right that Robert Meyer secured.

Milton Friedman is commonly regarded as the father of the modern educational choice movement. Perhaps Robert Meyer—a humble teacher who tried to help children keep their ancestral language alive—should be recognized as its grandfather.

Mr. Bindas leads the Institute for Justice's educational choice practice.

BOOKSHELF | By Hamilton Cain

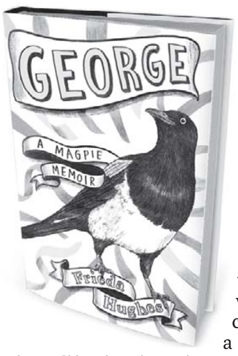
The Thing With Feathers

George: A Magpie Memoir

By Frieda Hughes
(Avid Reader, 264 pages, $28)

Frieda Hughes, the British writer, painter and former poetry columnist for the London Times, is equally famous, to those who follow her on social media, for the menagerie she keeps at her home in Wales. She shares photos of Huskies slouched on carpets; a ferret nibbling from a bowl; and owls lined up for meals of frozen chicks, which Ms. Hughes pops into their beaks.

Yes, *that* Frieda Hughes—or as she describes herself in her spirited, winsome "George: A Magpie Memoir," "DAUGHTER-OF-TEDHUGHES-AND-SYLVIAPLATH." She's the sole survivor of a literary legend, her parents titans among postwar poets, one an American golden girl and the other a Heathcliff-like brooder, their creative union incandescent yet doomed. Like Prince Harry, who recently confessed in an interview with Michael Strahan that no version of him exists outside the Royal family, Ms. Hughes tacitly acknowledges she will never escape the demise of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes's marriage and her mother's suicide in 1963, when Ms. Hughes was a toddler.



"George" is a rejoinder to that myth, a diary of her adventure with the mischievous corvid who stole her heart amid a period of personal adversity. After a life of peripatetic moves—her father "found it difficult to settle," and Ms. Hughes resided in western Australia in the 1990s—she was ready to put down roots. In 2007 she and her husband, a fellow painter she'd met in Perth, had just begun renovating a house in the Welsh countryside.

Throughout the book she refers to him as "The Ex," foretelling the outcome of their troubled marriage. His presence in the narrative is minimal: He watches Arnold Schwarzenegger videos, resentful, as she throws herself into various projects, particularly the lavish garden that wraps around the house. She adopts a magpie chick after he falls from a nest. She's aware that her neighbors consider this species pests, but she's not one to follow the conventional wisdom: "Where crows possessed gravitas, jackdaws possessed curiosity, and magpies possessed a tangible sense of humour."

George quickly adapts to the household, cavorting with Ms. Hughes's dogs and traumatizing the cleaning lady with his aggressive behavior. The baby bird stirs a maternal instinct in his mistress while alienating her friends and taxing her spouse's patience. True to his nature, George forages and tucks away canine kibble, dead rodents, light bulbs and balls of string. He drinks milk from a glass.

Ms. Hughes admits to anthropomorphizing him, in thrall to a tiny feathered Rasputin. She even builds a spacious aviary. "He was a hectic, unprincipled bird, but it was impossible not to love him," she writes. "It was interesting to me how his antics humanized him—he had a clearly defined character, recognizable idiosyncrasies and a very definite thought process." After four months he wings into the wild, gone for good. (The Ex soon flies the coop as well, decamping back to Australia.) Desolate, she vows to care for injured or unwanted predators. Poems, paintings, motorcycles, an ever-growing cadre of birds and beasts—these now constitute her purpose.

But Ms. Hughes is a canny stylist: There's another memoir lurking behind this one, caught in asides. The book is both a love letter to the magpie who changed her trajectory and a nod to the voyeurism of her readers, "the peanut-crunching crowd," to quote a Plath poem. Ms. Hughes doles out her biography in tidbits, feeding us in much the same manner as she feeds George. She's in command, and the familiar setting and characters—Court Green, Richard Murphy, Aunt Olwyn Hughes, the villainous "my father"—shock when they unexpectedly slip into the narrative.

Smaller relatives of the crow, magpies are famed for mischievous intelligence. One orphaned chick could take over a household.

Once she turns to her family romance, Ms. Hughes toys with us, not unlike George playing with her dogs. Her mother's a ghost at the margins. She mentions in passing her brother, Nicholas, who hanged himself in 2009. She pays homage to Ted Hughes, whom she adored, but drops this bombshell: "My father once told me that a woman should never be more successful than her man . . . He insisted that evolution had decreed that the man must be the provider. Of dead bison many years ago, and now, of a living wage and a roof over the family heads." Crows, a totemic inspiration for her father's poetry, circle in and out of "George." In one harrowing scene she steps gingerly, in Hitchcockian fashion, among an ominous gathering.

After George's departure, she takes in an ailing old crow, christening him Oscar; his death, weeks later, rips open emotional scars. "When I got back in the car I burst into tears again," Ms. Hughes writes, "Oscar's death linked me to all the other deaths: my mother's death, my father's death. . . my collapsing marriage." Grief takes on a Plath-like dimension: "It seeped through my veins like a sticky ink."

A crow in Ms. Hughes's writing, then, is never merely a crow. And in "George" a magpie is no longer just a magpie. She embraces her identification with her pet: "I had certainly developed George-like avoidance strategies thereafter; they were part of my survival kit as a child." The book itself is a kind of magpie: Ms. Hughes hoards myths and secrets within her birding lore, and dispenses them at her leisure: "I have been trying to file my life since I was a child: letters, diaries, pay slips, tax demands, marriage and divorce artefacts." She tells her story in poised yet anecdotal language; her charm reels us in. Memoir as a form of self-revelation comes beautifully to her. I suspect her audience will clamor for another soon.

Mr. Cain is the author of "This Boy's Faith: Notes From a Southern Baptist Upbringing."

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OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Union Sabotage at the Supreme Court

Are striking workers protected when they deceive an employer into making inventory that they intend to ruin? Readers might be shocked that this is a live question, and on Thursday the Supreme Court said 8-1 that the answer is no. *Glacier Northwest v. Teamsters* is worth highlighting because it's another example of the wild things unions believe they're entitled to do.

Does federal law protect intentionally destructive labor strikes? Nope.

Glacier Northwest sells concrete in Washington state. The company alleges, as Justice Amy Coney Barrett writes for the majority, that the Teamsters intentionally called a work stoppage "when the Union knew that Glacier was in the midst of mixing substantial amounts of concrete, loading batches into ready-mix trucks, and making deliveries." Sixteen truck drivers refused to complete their deliveries. Nine abandoned their trucks without a word, threatening damage if the concrete hardened inside.

What ensued, Justice Barrett continues, was "a mad scramble," in which "over the course of five hours, nonstriking employees built special bunkers and managed to offload the concrete." The trucks were saved, but the product was a loss, and Glacier sued the union in state court. The Teamsters claimed the drivers' conduct was "arguably protected" by the federal National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935, and the Washington Supreme Court agreed.

But the U.S. Supreme Court majority says a longstanding legal interpretation is that such lawsuits are not pre-empted when strikers "fail to take 'reasonable precautions' to protect their employer's property from foreseeable, aggravated, and imminent danger." The union argued that workers in the meat and milk industries have had their right to strike upheld, even though walking off the job can create a risk of spoilage.

Justice Barrett zeroes in on a material difference: "Given the lifespan of wet concrete, Glacier could not batch it until a truck was ready to take it. So by reporting for duty and pretending as if they would deliver the concrete, the drivers *prompted the creation* of the perishable product. Then, they waited to walk off the job until the concrete was mixed and poured in the trucks." Far from defending the alleged destruction, the Teamsters should be embarrassed by it.

Five Justices are represented by the majority opinion. The textualist troika of Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch cement the same outcome using different legal reasoning. The lonely dissenter is Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, who wants the courts to pause their review so that the National Labor Relations Board can first consider the dispute. According to the NLRB's general counsel, Justice Jackson says, the argument that the strike was protected "appears to have merit."

That's a testament to what the NLRB lets unions get away with. In its 2016 *Cooper Tire* decision, the board said picketing Ohio tire workers couldn't be punished by the company for yelling racist remarks at replacement staff, including: "Go back to Africa, you bunch of —ing losers!" That legal interpretation was reversed under President Trump, but the Biden Administration has now reversed the reversal. Bigotry is apparently fine as long as it's unionized.

Union membership in the private economy keeps dropping, with no end in sight, and this type of behavior is part of the story. The labor organizer's fantasy is that every strike is like Disney's "Newsies," a tale of plucky salesboys in 1899 who demand better terms from New York's miserly press barons. The court filings always read more like "On the Waterfront."

Voting Down Biden's Loan Forgiveness

The Supreme Court will soon rule on the legality of President Biden's unilateral decision to write down $400 billion in student-loan debt. If anyone doubts why the President dodged Congress on the issue, recent votes make clear that he would have lost.

Majorities in both houses of Congress reject his write-off.

The Democratic Senate voted Thursday, 52-46, to endorse a Congressional resolution to overturn the Biden write-off. That followed a 218-203 vote in the House a week earlier to do the same.

With a wave of his hand last summer, Mr. Biden canceled $10,000 to $20,000 in debt for some 40 million borrowers, though he had earlier conceded it was "pretty questionable" that he had the power to do so. Nancy Pelosi, then House Speaker, also said two years ago that "it would take an act of Congress, not an executive order, to cancel student loan debt."

Who cares about the law when an election is nigh? The White House claims it has sweeping authority to forgive student debt under an obscure 2003 law to help veterans, and this is the claim the High Court is judging. But Mr. Biden's transparent political goal was to buy the votes of young people who have student debt. While the write-down might have played well in Berkeley, Calif., it rankles most Americans who didn't go to college or who sacrificed to repay their loans.

That may explain why Democrats Jon Tester (Montana) and Joe Manchin (West Virginia), as well as independent Kyrsten Sinema (Arizona) joined Republicans on Thursday to vote down the write-down. Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), a majority of both chambers can vote to repeal a rule, though it still needs the President's signature.

Mr. Biden has vowed to veto the resolution, but the bipartisan vote has the political utility of forcing Democrats who present themselves as moderates and defenders of the working class to go on the record to support the President's wealth transfer to mostly well-off Americans. Here's looking at you, Catherine Cortez Masto (Nevada) and Bob Casey (Pennsylvania).

This is the fourth bipartisan CRA resolution that Mr. Biden will have vetoed, which shows whose views are in the minority. The others were repealing the Waters of the United States rule, a Labor Department rule on ESG investing, and a suspension on solar tariffs.

Messrs. Tester and Manchin and Ms. Sinema are up for re-election next year, so they may be hoping the student-loan vote will give them political cover. In any case, the resolution sends a resounding message to the public and the Justices that the write-down couldn't pass the democratic way. Let's hope the Supreme Court sends a similar message to the President.

The Global Economic Growth Deficit

World Bank President David Malpass recently worried on these pages about the slowing global economy and the lack of pro-growth policies. His warning is already coming true, as China is slumping while Germany slips into recession.

China slumps and Germany is in recession, while the U.S. holds on.

The post-Covid boom many expected in China appears to be fizzling. Data this week suggests a manufacturing slump is becoming deeper, while services are losing buoyancy. Urban youth unemployment is at a record high, and the real-estate market limps along.

Reality is also catching up with the German economy, which contracted 0.3% in the first three months of the year after shrinking 0.5% in the previous quarter, with consumer spending especially weak and inflation high. The surprise is that this didn't happen sooner, given the burden of Berlin's green-energy malinvestment and rising fossil-fuel prices after Russia invaded Ukraine.

The bright spot remains the U.S., though GDP growth of 1% to 2% is hardly thrilling. The job market and consumer spending are surprisingly resilient, but credit conditions are tightening for businesses while new investment has declined as profits fall.

The prospect of a synchronized global downturn among three large economies is rare and worrying. In recent history, growth in at least one helped to support the others—as when a credit-fueled Chinese expansion after 2008 put a floor under the U.S. downturn, or modest U.S. growth after 2010 helped Europe through its sovereign-debt crisis.

Several factors explain why so many economies are struggling in tandem. The Covid pandemic was universal and, although the economic effects were more severe in some places than others, no one escaped harm. Unprecedented economic stimulus—especially from central banks—drove global inflation that is now being countered with monetary tightening. Russia's invasion caused global energy and food prices to spike.

Yet policy makers in most places are doing more harm. Berlin is suffocating manufacturers and households with higher energy bills in the name of fighting climate change, ditching nuclear power while piling on subsidies for unreliable and expensive wind and solar.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is waging a campaign against the country's private economy to maintain Communist Party political control. This includes regulatory crackdowns on tech companies that should be leading a rapid economic expansion.

The Biden Administration puts "equity" over growth in nearly all of its economic decisions. A high point in the new debt-ceiling deal is the provision to approve the Mountain Valley natural-gas pipeline, but that's a lone bright spot amid the Biden Administration's hostility to affordable fossil fuels. Democrats are using regulation to allocate private capital across the economy, often in unproductive ways.

Each country's follies will prove expensive for itself—and everyone else. All the more so if domestic policy mistakes trigger trade fights, such as the conflict the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act's green subsidies threaten to start with the European Union.

Global leaders have wasted their recent summit meetings on climate change, raising taxes and otherwise ignoring the economic slowdowns they're causing. The world awaits leaders who care more about growth than income redistribution and industrial policy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McCarthy to Republicans: Deal or No Deal?

Your editorial "A Debt-Ceiling Deal Worth Passing" (May 30) is correct: This is a solid deal made possible only by Republican unity. Speaker Kevin McCarthy deserves credit for holding his often fractious caucus together to produce a reasonable bill. That bill put Sen. Chuck Schumer in an untenable spot and forced President Biden to negotiate from a position of weakness.

There are members of Congress, such as Texas Rep. Chip Roy of the Freedom Caucus, who are making noises about voting the deal down. Such a move would be irresponsible. While Mr. Roy, many of his constituents and I all want a tougher deal, he and other lawmakers from very conservative districts have to take tough votes occasionally for the good of the country.

We would do well to remember that this same crowd scuttled the immigration-reform bill that would have prevented the lawless border we have now. Republicans have to prove that they can govern ahead of the next election, and that means sticking together and showing some discipline.

Conan M. Ward
Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

The conservative members of the House are now seeing why they should never have negotiated to allow Mr. McCarthy to become speaker. He held the leverage to force Mr. Biden to agree to the Limit, Save, Grow Act passed by the House. Instead, Mr. McCarthy folded. As he said on Fox News, "We put a statutory cap on spending, 1% [growth] for the next six years. So, we let government grow but at a slower rate." How about an agreement that actually cuts spending to pre-Covid levels and then reduces the budget by 1% each year?

David Gay
Alamo Heights, Texas

The brinkmanship orchestrated by the GOP has played into the hands of China's Xi Jinping and other autocrats who argue that democracies must fail because they take too long to form a consensus. Particularly galling is that, under former President Donald Trump, Republicans raised the debt ceiling three times without budget-cut preconditions.

Gordon Downing
Wynnewood, Pa.

Regarding your editorial "The GOP's Progress on Work and Welfare" (May 31): The old Soviet joke went, "We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us." Democrats have their own variation: "Don't even pretend to work, and the government will pay you, anyway." Kudos to the GOP for pushing work requirements. Without a culture of work, we are doomed.

Dana R. Hermanson
Marietta, Ga.

How Racial Preferences Will Come to an End

William McGurn's "The Empire Strikes Back" (Main Street, May 30) is, I'm sad to say, correct in predicting colleges and universities will do everything they can to ignore and subvert the Supreme Court's expected ban on affirmative action. I spent a big chunk of my career working for elite schools as a teacher, curator and museum director. Race-based admissions are embedded in both process and mind-set. They will need to be blasted out, as will the diversity, equity and inclusion systems. This will take time and perseverance.

The Voting Rights Act mandated federal monitoring and regulation of elections in southern states known to discriminate by race. We'll need a similar tact, either on the state or federal level or both, to ensure race-free admissions as well as hiring at our Yales, Harvards, Amhersts and flagship state universities. It will take powerful antidotes to kill the poison of affirmative action.

Brian T. Allen, Ph.D.
Arlington, Vt.

There is at least one way to fight the "empire of racial preferences." Universities thrive on donations, most of which dwell on the largess of alumni of the same races they now reject. I suggest the alumni wake up and challenge their colleges to reject racial tampering, critical race theory and DEI. The ensuing drought among endowments and legacies should change some plans.

Ralph Little
Jacksonville, Fla.

The Los Angeles Dodgers Strike Out Swinging

Regarding Matthew Hennessey's op-ed "These Aren't Tommy Lasorda's Dodgers" (May 24): The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence insult women (imagine a white person putting on blackface and acting out all the racist stereotypes of "Amos 'n' Andy"), nuns and, ironically, gay men, the vast majority of whom quietly go to work, raise their families and live their lives without histrionics. That's three strikes, Dodgers. You're out!

Cynthia Millen
Toledo, Ohio

The late, great Lasorda was insightful before his time about the relationship between baseball's front office and fans when he said, "Listen, if you start worrying about the people in the stands, before too long you're up in the stands with them." The Dodgers front office should take note.

Robert Waller
Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Calif.

Who are all these geniuses running iconic brands into the ground these days, and what are they learning at Harvard's B-school?

Bill Douglas
Medford, Mass.

Bud Light's Road Not Taken in the Culture War

Regarding "Bud Light Blundered in Response to Backlash" (Page One, May 22): From a marketing perspective, what a missed opportunity. AB InBev CEO Michel Doukeris gets it half-right: "Beer will always be at the table when important topics are debated." No matter your differences, sit down and have a beer. Talk, connect, maybe even understand.

But Anheuser-Busch didn't act on this wisdom. It retreated when it should have doubled down. It should sell specially wrapped cans to fans of Michigan and fans of Ohio State, to fans of President Biden and fans of President Trump. Acknowledge our differences while bringing us together.

This was a unicorn opportunity not only for a beer company, but for all of us. A beverage-guided bridge through an increasingly fracturing America. Unfortunately, it was a missed opportunity.

Yve Golan
Washington

Industrial Policy Goes Awry

In "Biden's 'Foreign Policy for the Middle Class'" (Politics & Ideas, May 31), William Galston seems to laud national-security adviser Jake Sullivan's proposal for a "modern American industrial strategy"—he didn't say "policy"—which would "invest public funds in sectors essential to economic innovation and national security." It should be noted, with much relief, that Mr. Sullivan doesn't want "autarky." With stalwarts such as Bernie Sanders, Sheldon Whitehouse and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in Washington, as well as various people surnamed Biden, what could possibly go wrong?

Jack Woodruff
San Francisco

Is It 2016 All Over Again?

We are heading to a replay of 2016, with the opposition to Donald Trump divided among so many candidates that his mere plurality support in each primary is enough to win the lion's share of the delegates ("'Unelectability' Won't Defeat Donald Trump" by Gerard Baker, Free Expression, May 23). More important than pledging loyalty to the eventual nominee, GOP candidates should promise to withdraw from the race if, by a certain date, they fail to reach a critical threshold of support. Only in a two-man competition will the winner truly reflect the will of most voters.

Stanley Spatz
Hollywood, Fla.

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to wsj.ltrs@wsj.com. Please include your city, state and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing, and unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"I can't tell if I'm in a meeting or watching the world's most boring movie on Netflix."

DeSantis Has a Record of Winning

By Dave Seminara

St. Petersburg, Fla.

The media has settled on two narratives about Gov. Ron DeSantis, both designed to help nominate Donald Trump and thereby re-elect Joe Biden. The first narrative is that Mr. DeSantis is unlikable. The second is that he is an extremist who bans books, erases black history and persecutes immigrants and gay people.

The narrative that Mr. DeSantis is unlikable, and therefore unelectable, is an interesting critique for a politician who has never lost an election. Politico published a lengthy column in January titled "Ron DeSantis Takes On the Likability Issue (Sort Of)." In May it added a piece asserting his wife is just as unlikable, if not more so, portraying her as a kind of Lady Macbeth. Vanity Fair published a similar piece in May, with the headline "Being an Unlikable Jerk Not Working Out So Well for Ron DeSantis." The Atlantic ran a lengthy piece on the topic last year, with the subhead: "People who haven't met him think he's a hot commodity. People who have met him aren't so sure."

The media sneer that he's 'unlikable' and distort his legislative achievements. Here are the facts.

At least since 2008, we've heard repeatedly that it's sexist to assess likability in politicians. The Atlantic published a piece with the subheadline, " 'Electability.' 'Likability.' 'Authenticity.' The 2020 Democratic primary has found many canny ways to make misogyny plausibly deniable." In November 2022 Politico complained about "the return of the Lady Macbeth trope" and characterized criticism of Hillary Clinton, Jill Biden and Gisele Fetterman as "a reinforcement of traditional gender roles that make any ambitious woman suspect." Apparently, questioning a candidate's or spouse's likability is misogyny if the target is a female Democrat but good sport if the target is a Republican.

A common critique of Mr. Trump was that he isn't a serious person. We were told repeatedly that we needed an adult to assert control. But now that Republicans have a serious candidate in Mr. DeSantis, focused on implementing a conservative agenda, the media almost seems to miss Mr. Trump, who was at least good for clicks.

Gov. DeSantis signs the Parental Rights in Education Act, March 28, 2022.

DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD/TAMPA BAY TIMES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whatever one thinks about Mr. DeSantis, it's hard to dispute his productivity. Consider some of the bills he's recently signed into law. SB 266 prohibits Florida's public universities from spending money on programs or activities that "advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion or promote or engage in political or social activism" and weakens tenure protection for professors.

HB 1069 liberates teachers and students from having to use fashionable nonstandard pronouns. The law (which the media tendentiously label the "don't say gay" bill) also expands parental rights in education by prohibiting classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity through eighth grade. The law also establishes a review process that allows parents to object to inappropriate books in schools and requires school boards to discontinue the use of any material the board doesn't allow a parent to read aloud in public meetings.

Florida now also has universal school choice, regardless of income, thanks to another new law, HB 1. Families are eligible for a credit of up to $8,000 a child, which they can use at the school of their choice. Far from erasing black history as has been alleged, Mr. DeSantis also signed into law HB 551, which strengthens reporting requirements to make sure schools are teaching black history.

Mr. DeSantis also signed SB 254, which outlaws "permanent mutilating surgeries and experimental puberty blockers" for children. HB 225 protects female athletes from having to compete against males and allows public prayers at school sporting events. HB 1438 protects children from "sexually explicit adult performances in all venues—including drag shows and strip clubs," while HB 1521 requires "educational institutions, detention facilities, correctional institutions, and all other public venues in the state with restrooms, changing facilities or locker rooms to have separate facilities available for men and women based on their biological sex."

SB 1718, Florida's new immigration law, requires employers with at least 25 employees to use E-Verify, creates penalties for smuggling illegal aliens across state lines, invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses given to illegal aliens, and requires hospitals to file reports about the cost and impact of uncompensated care given to illegal aliens. Mr. DeSantis also signed a host of crime-control bills, including one to increase the penalties for fentanyl dealers, another to permit the death penalty for child rapists, and another that allows for the death penalty with at least an 8-4 jury vote.

SB 300 outlaws abortion after six weeks with exceptions for victims of rape, incest and human trafficking, as well as when it is medically necessary to save the life of the mother or to "avert a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman other than a psychological condition." Mr. DeSantis also signed a medical-freedom law, SB 252, that makes it illegal to require masks, Covid tests or mRNA vaccines in the state.

Mr. Trump grouses about the 2020 election being rigged. Mr. DeSantis avoids such debate but focuses instead on election-integrity legislation, signing into law SB 524 last year, which banned ballot harvesting, stopped drop boxes and the mass mailing of ballots, and banned "Zuckerbucks," the use of private funds for official government vote counts.

The left hates his agenda but hasn't debated the merits honestly. Instead, they've issued bogus warnings against travel to Florida and resorted to name calling: mischaracterizing legislation as "don't say gay" and falsely labeling as "book banning" the removal of age-inappropriate books from school libraries.

Mr. DeSantis isn't an entertainer or a stand-up comedian, like Mr. Trump. If he's the Republican nominee, the national debate should be policy-oriented, based on what's in the laws he's signed—rather than wild distortions and irrelevant claims that he and his wife are unlikable.

Mr. Seminara is a former diplomat and host of the "DeSantisland" podcast.

China Won't Save the U.S. From Recession This Time

POLITICAL ECONOMICS
By Joseph C. Sternberg

Bad news, folks: China's not going to save us this time.

That, in a nutshell, explains why investors sank into a sour mood this week on the latest bad economic data from China. Survey data exposed a deepening slowdown in manufacturing. Services, while still buoyant, are less so than in previous months. Urban youth unemployment is at a record high, above 20%, with college grads faring particularly poorly. The all-important property market continues to lag. It all suggests China's fervently hoped-for post-Covid economic boost is snapping before it had a chance to crackle and pop.

The timing couldn't be worse, because all indications are that the U.S. is at the beginning of the beginning, rather than the end of the end, of its own contraction occasioned by the painful adjustment to the withdrawal of a decade of extraordinary monetary stimulus. Banks may no longer be facing the deposit runs of March, but fretful murmuring about commercial real-estate credit is not a sign of financial or economic health.

This makes for a less fortuitous stellar alignment than the last time the U.S. suffered a major credit crunch, the 2008 global financial panic and ensuing Great Recession of 2009. As bad as that downturn was, things would have been even worse without an assist from Beijing. As the subprime-mortgage crisis and a financial-regulatory bonanza froze credit in America (followed two years later by a sovereign-debt fiasco in Europe), the Chinese government threw open the financial floodgates with reckless abandon.

Beijing's stimulus then was just what the U.S. economy needed. Rather than adopting the Keynesian demand-side reflation attempted by Washington via bulked-up transfer payments, Beijing pursued a supply-side stimulus with Chinese characteristics. Officials encouraged an explosion in lending via state-owned banks, shadowy local-government investment funds, and many entities in between. The point was to prop up producers, especially manufacturers.

The principal Chinese characteristic here was a near-total disconnect from economic reality, including such inconvenient questions as who would consume everything China was producing and whether they would continue consuming it long enough for all China's debtors to remain solvent. This became an era of rampant overproduction. Yet Beijing's economic unreality mirrored Washington's, as an American economy pumped up by the government's deficit spending proved perfectly happy to consume what Chinese manufacturers were subsidized to produce. Hence the ever-larger deficits in the trade in goods with China.

Beijing's supply-side stimulus eased the 2009 contraction, but don't expect another one.

The icing on the cake was how it all was paid for. Because Beijing was unwilling for various reasons to allow Americans' borrowed cash to flood uncontrolled into the domestic Chinese economy, that foreign cash was sterilized in Beijing's foreign-exchange reserve—from where it was recycled back into purchases of the Treasury bonds Washington used to fund America's overconsumption. Beijing's holdings of U.S. government debt, as measured by the Treasury Department, surged to $1.3 trillion in mid-2011 from $401 billion at the start of 2007.

China is a different place this time around, in some ways for the better and in others much for the worse. In the "better" column, Beijing has wised up to the unsustainability of its post-2008 economic strategy. The risk was never that China's closed-off financial system would collapse in a Western-style financial crisis. But the distortions the credit boom and its misallocation created have dragged on China's productivity. State-owned enterprises, overleveraged property developers and local-government boondoggle builders came out ahead. Meantime, productive private enterprise and household savers suffered.

Beijing knows all this. One reason China's post-Covid recovery is turning out to be a disappointment is that the government is nearly three years into a major clampdown on the real-estate market that in an earlier era was a prime vector of reckless credit expansion. And despite the steep economic costs of Beijing's zero-Covid policies, no one believes a post-2008-style lending stimulus is imminent. Were Beijing to pivot from export-led, credit-subsidy-dependent growth to domestic consumption fed by an entrepreneurial private sector, the world would be much better off over the longer term—the Chinese people most of all.

Yet as if determined to thwart such a rotation, President Xi Jinping also is tightening the Communist Party's political control of the economy at the expense of productive private enterprise. This is particularly noticeable in the favoritism Beijing shows state-owned enterprises despite their relatively low productivity; the government's hostility to the entrepreneurial service companies, especially in tech, that should be the backbone of a modern domestic-facing economy; and the permanent disdain for foreign companies trying to sell goods and services in China.

So no, don't expect a China bailout if the U.S. is on the cusp of a financial panic or credit crunch of some sort. We'll have to do it the hard way, by stimulating our own productive supply side instead of leaning harder on China's wasteful one. Given the current political climate in the West, investors are right to worry this won't happen any time soon.

IAEA for AI? That Model Has Already Failed

By Mike Watson

Having been confined to academic discussions and tech conference gab-fests in years past, the question of artificial intelligence has finally caught the public's attention. ChatGPT, Dall-E 2 and other new programs have demonstrated that computers can generate sentences and images that closely resemble man-made creations.

AI researchers are sounding the alarm. In March, some of the field's leading lights joined with tech pioneers such as Elon Musk and Steve Wozniak to call for a six-month pause on AI experiments because "advanced AI could represent a profound change in the history of life on Earth, and should be planned for and managed with commensurate care and resources." Last month the leadership of OpenAI, which created ChatGPT, called for "something like an IAEA"—the International Atomic Energy Agency—"for superintelligence efforts," which would "inspect systems, require audits, test for compliance with safety standards, place restrictions on degrees of deployment and levels of security, etc." If the alarmists are right about the dangers of AI and try to fix it with an IAEA-style solution, then we're already doomed.

Nuclear analogies feature prominently in conversations about AI risk. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who has previously asked Congress to regulate AI, frequently brings up the Manhattan Project when discussing his company. Henry Kissinger, not known for wild-eyed alarmism, has said that "AI could be as consequential as the advent of nuclear weapons—but even less predictable."

The IAEA model is appealing for many people concerned about AI because its goals are analogous to theirs. The agency's mission is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy while preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Many AI researchers would like their inventions to promote human flourishing without increasing human destructiveness.

Unfortunately, the technical methods of nuclear-style arms control can't be applied to computing programs. While nuclear weapons require significant infrastructure—reactors, enrichment facilities and the like—AI has a much smaller footprint. The OpenAI team thinks there may be a solution to this problem, since "tracking compute and energy usage could go a long way" to monitoring compliance.

It would still come up short. As the OpenAI team admits, "the technical capability to make a superintelligence safe" is "an open research question." Without a known standard, there is no way to measure compliance.

The IAEA's primary failing isn't measuring compliance but enforcing it. When the agency was founded in 1957, there were three nuclear states: the U.S., the Soviet Union and Britain. Under the IAEA's watch, that number has tripled.

Geopolitical rivalries caused nuclear proliferation during the Cold War, when France, China and India detonated nuclear devices and Israel developed its own bomb. Although the Americans and Soviets wanted to restrict nuclear weapons, neither wanted to weaken their coalitions by alienating partners who were on the pathway to the bomb.

Since the International Atomic Energy's founding in 1957, the number of nuclear states has tripled.

The IAEA failed in its nonproliferation mission even after the Soviet Union collapsed. Pakistan and North Korea have tested the bomb since then, and Iran is enriching uranium near weapons grade. Israel has had some notable nonproliferation successes in Iraq and Syria, but generally only a great power can enforce IAEA compliance. With the dubious exception of Iraq, the U.S. has decided that nuclear proliferation is preferable to war.

China's growing power and belligerence is one of many factors that will make an international AI-control regime challenging. China has been one of the most profligate nuclear proliferators, and it is likely to push the boundaries of weapons-related AI—because AI is less likely to launch a coup or disobey orders than China's military leadership, is and because Beijing will be able to control international partners that rely on Chinese-developed AI.

But even friendly democracies will chafe at AI limitations. Computing technologies will unlock tremendous economic benefits, and many of these inventions will have military implications. The American military will have to use AI, and while most of America's allies and partners are willing to shelter under its nuclear umbrella, they aren't likely to choke off their own economic growth if Washington imposes an AI double standard.

Ironically, OpenAI wants to adopt the IAEA model even as nuclear nonproliferation's future has grown increasingly dubious. Bill Clinton regrets one of its great successes—the 1994 Budapest Memorandum by which Ukraine relinquished its Soviet-era nuclear weapons. "None of them believe that Russia would have pulled this stunt if Ukraine still had their weapons," he said in April. North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programs are forcing American partners and allies across Asia to reassess how much they need a nuclear weapon.

Ultimately, nonproliferation and AI risk share the same weakness: They underestimate the human factor.

Mr. Watson is associate director of the Hudson Institute's Center for the Future of Liberal Society.

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WORLD NEWS

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Chadian soldiers, seen patrolling in Monguno in 2019, have fought against Islamist militants in the deserts of Central Africa.

Pro-Western Chad Puts U.S. In Bind Over Junta's Conduct

By Michael M. Phillips

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast—The Biden administration is in a bind over whether to provide military aid to Chad, one of Africa's most reliable bulwarks against the spread of Islamist militants and an opponent of Russia's growing influence in the Sahel region.

Chad's longtime president, Idriss Déby, was killed in battle two years ago and quickly succeeded by his son, violating the line of succession laid out in the Central African country's constitution. Now, the U.S. government is struggling with the question of whether the ruling junta is too brutal and undemocratic to merit U.S. assistance, or whether the country's value as a military ally trumps those concerns.

Mahamat Idriss Déby, Chad's new president, has maintained his father's pro-Western stance and continued to dispatch thousands of his country's troops to fight jihadists in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. This year, the U.S. shared intelligence with Chad that the Kremlin-aligned Wagner paramilitary group has plotted to destabilize or potentially kill Déby in an apparent effort to expand its influence with military leaders in several neighboring countries.

For the moment, administration officials are stuck, unable to provide Chad anything but token security assistance and unwilling to ask Congress for more in the face of opposition from a key Democratic senator, who has vowed to block aid to Chad if it doesn't address his concerns about army rule there.

"Supporting dictators and military strongmen while neglecting the majority of Chad's citizens is a disastrous policy," said Sen. Bob Menendez (D., N.J.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. "The notion that investing more in the security sector will promote stability in Chad or the broader Sahel is deeply flawed."

Chad has a reputation for prowess at desert warfare and an 11,000-man elite antiterrorist unit, making it a rare ally against violent Islamists who are destabilizing swaths of Africa from Mali to Somalia.

Extremists killed almost 8,000 people last year in the western Sahel, a semiarid band just south of the Sahara, according to data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, a U.S.-based violence-monitoring organization, as analyzed by the Pentagon's Africa Center for Strategic Studies. The bulk of the killings took place in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Chad has dispatched 1,400 troops to fight jihadist groups in northern Mali and 1,800 to conduct operations in the volatile three-way border at the intersection of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. It has 1,100 soldiers fighting Boko Haram and Islamic State-West Africa around Lake Chad, troops that sometimes pursue militants into Nigeria and Niger.

Washington weighs whether military is too undemocratic to merit assistance.

"We need to support all these missions, yet the U.S. is pulling back," Lt. Gen. Abdraman Yousouf Mery, commander of the country's antiterrorist unit, said in an interview.

Chad's capital, N'Djamena, hosts headquarters of two regional security forces, one set up to fight al Qaeda and Islamic State in the western Sahel and the other to take on Boko Haram and other militants around Lake Chad. Mery says further instability could come from the war in neighboring Sudan, which has forced some 76,000 Sudanese refugees to flee into Chad over the past six weeks.

"We can't do this alone," he said. "We need the help of the U.S. to keep the peace along the Chadian borders and keep the problems in Sudan from moving west."

Until the elder Déby's death in 2021, U.S. special-operations troops trained Chadian commandos, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars since 2015. The Pentagon supplied Chad's army with Toyota Land Cruiser pickup trucks and body armor.

"Historically, our relationship with Chad sought to increase their counterterrorism capabilities, to support the professionalization of their military forces, and to increase their peacekeeping abilities and readiness," said Kelly Cahalan, a spokeswoman for U.S. Africa Command.

Afghan-War Veteran Loses Suits Against Australian Papers

By Mike Cherney

SYDNEY—An Australian judge dismissed defamation lawsuits against newspapers brought by a veteran of the war in Afghanistan who has been at the center of debates over the conduct of the country's soldiers in the conflict and treatment of its veterans.

Ben Roberts-Smith, who had won Australia's highest military honor for fighting in support of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, sued newspapers, including publishers of the Sydney Morning Herald and the Age in Melbourne, after articles in 2018 reported he killed unarmed Afghans and pressured others to commit human-rights abuses.

According to court papers filed by Roberts-Smith, the allegations in the articles included that he murdered an unarmed Afghan civilian by kicking him off a cliff and getting soldiers under his command to shoot the man; gunned down a man with a prosthetic leg, which he took back to Australia and then encouraged soldiers to use as a novelty drinking vessel; and pressured a newly deployed soldier to kill an elderly, unarmed man.

Roberts-Smith, who was a member of the special forces, contended the articles were false and defamatory. The newspapers stood by their reporting. In a summary of his decision on Thursday, the judge found the newspapers "established the substantial truth" of many of the 14 allegations against Roberts-Smith—a legal bar that the newspapers needed to clear for the case to be dismissed.

Lawyers for Roberts-Smith didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

"The series of stories at the center of this trial will have a lasting impact on the Australian Defence Force and how our soldiers conduct themselves during conflict," said Nine Entertainment, the publisher of Sydney and Melbourne newspapers that were defendants in the case, adding that the judge's ruling is a critical step toward justice for the families of the victims.

Australia, one of the U.S.'s most important allies in the Indo-Pacific region as Washington works to counter China, has been grappling with the legacy of its involvement in Afghanistan. Public scrutiny intensified in 2020, when a government inquiry found credible information that Australian special forces unlawfully killed 39 prisoners, farmers and other civilians. In response to the report, which recommended that certain honors for some soldiers that served in Afghanistan be revoked, the government established a special agency to help investigate potential crimes.

According to a 2020 court document in the defamation case, police informed Roberts-Smith that he was considered a suspect in an investigation into some of the same alleged war crimes reported by the newspapers. The document said no charges had been brought against him.

This year, Australian authorities charged a former soldier who was deployed to Afghanistan with a war crime, the first prosecution of its kind in Australia. The soldier was publicly identified; a lawyer for the soldier couldn't be reached for comment at the time.

The debate over Australia's military conduct comes as Washington deepens its security alliance with Australia.

The U.S. is also helping Australia develop nuclear-powered submarines under the three-way Aukus partnership with the U.K. In parliamentary testimony this week, Gen. Angus Campbell, chief of Australia's military, said he received a letter from a U.S. defense attaché that raised the possibility that allegations of war crimes in the 2020 government report may impact the U.S.'s ability to work with Australian special forces.

The U.S. Embassy in Canberra didn't have an immediate comment.

China's Missile Threat Shifts Pentagon's Approach

By Alastair Gale

LAL-LO, Philippines—At this tiny commercial airport near the northern tip of the Philippines, tents for U.S. military equipment and troops dotted the tarmac alongside U.S. Army helicopters during recent training exercises.

It is one of a growing number of outposts for American forces in the Asia-Pacific region designed to meet the rising military challenge from China.

It is also part of a shift away from a heavy reliance on big military bases that have been the linchpin of the American presence in Asia for decades. Such bases are increasingly vulnerable as Beijing's missile arsenal grows larger and more technologically advanced.

By dispersing weaponry, troops and command posts among smaller outposts such as Lal-Lo, the U.S. hopes to make it harder for Beijing to strike a decisive blow by crippling any single military facility.

"The threat to fixed bases from the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, given its extraordinary growth in capabilities in the last few years, is front and center," said Thomas Shugart, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank.

China's growing military capabilities and the U.S. military presence in Asia are set to be among the themes at this weekend's meeting of defense ministers in Singapore known as the Shangri-La Dialogue. China rebuffed a U.S. request for a meeting at the event between Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu.

China now has more than 1,300 ballistic missiles that could be used against targets in the Asia-Pacific region, including over 250 that could reach as far as major U.S. military bases in Guam, around 3,000 miles from the Chinese mainland, according to Pentagon estimates.

China's development of hypersonic missiles, which are harder for missile-defense systems to hit because they don't follow predictable flight paths, has also focused attention on the vulnerability of U.S. bases in Asia.

Recent tabletop simulations conducted by American security analysts, including of a hypothetical war over Taiwan, generally assumed Beijing would try to destroy major American installations early in the conflict.

That potentially includes Kadena Air Base, the largest American air base in the region on the Japanese island of Okinawa, with more than $4 billion in jet fighters and other equipment.

Alarmed by this possibility, Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.) introduced a bill into Congress in May calling for the U.S. military to build stronger shelters for its aircraft in Asia.

Air Force leaders say new shelters alone won't solve the problem. They are giving priority to a hub-and-spoke model that would move many aircraft away from large bases to an array of smaller facilities, especially if a conflict is looming.

As part of that transition, the Air Force is creating small teams of personnel that can quickly convert locations such as airstrips on remote islands into temporary bases for military aircraft when needed. So-called Air Mobility Teams would be dropped into these locations and tasked with rapidly preparing runways and setting up infrastructure like refueling points.

"It's about complicating their decision matrix. So yes, you might be able to hit this location, but we have another one over here from which we can project combat power," said Maj. Gen. John M. Klein, commander of the Air Force Expeditionary Center, under which the Air Mobility Teams are being created.

*As of Dec. 31
Sources: Center for Strategic and International Studies (ranges); Defense Department (bases)

A larger number of small bases around the region could also allow the U.S. military to deploy assets closer to where they might be needed, shortening response times in a strategy known as prepositioning.

This may help with other missions such as disaster response. The Lal-Lo airfield is located in a region of the Philippines often hit by typhoons.

Some military strategists warn that moves to disperse U.S. military forces could make them more vulnerable if individual sites have weaker defenses and can be destroyed by a small number of missiles.

Operating from more countries can have other complications, such as coordination with host governments. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has said that sites the U.S. military has access to in his country can't be used for offensive military action.

Logistical and operational challenges may also increase with a more dispersed military, including communications with control centers.

U.S. military officials say the risks of losses as a result of concentrating their forces in just a few locations are now too great to not have other options.

Major U.S. military facilities in the Asia-Pacific region are protected by missile-defense systems such as Patriot batteries, which can defend against ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as drones, and the ship-based Aegis system, which targets ballistic missiles in midflight.

U.S. military officials say the task of defending bases is more challenging than ever because of China's advancing capabilities, as well as the threat of North Korea.

A central goal for China's military under leader Xi Jinping has been to make it perilous for the U.S. or any other rival military to operate around China's periphery, Chinese military scholars said.

WORLD WATCH

MEXICO

Officials Find Bags Of Human Remains

Authorities in Mexico found 45 bags containing human remains in a gorge on the outskirts of Guadalajara and are trying to determine how many bodies are there.

The bags found at a forest overlook contained remains of men and women, the state prosecutor's office in the western state of Jalisco said Wednesday night. Firefighters and civil defense worked with a helicopter to recover remains from the gorge and planned to continue during the coming days.

Authorities had been looking for seven young people reported missing last week when they found the site, but it was still unknown if they were among the remains found. The state prosecutor's office said it investigated the site after receiving a report of possible body parts there.

There are more than 110,000 missing people in Mexico, and Jalisco is the state with the highest number, at 15,000, according to federal government data.

—Associated Press

JORDAN

Crown Prince Weds Saudi Family Scion

Jordan's crown prince married the scion of a prominent Saudi family on Thursday in a palace ceremony attended by royals and other VIPs from around the world, as massive crowds gathered across the kingdom to celebrate the region's newest power couple.

The marriage of Crown Prince Hussein, 28 years old, and Saudi architect Rajwa Alseif, 29, drew a star-studded guest list including Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate, as well as U.S. first lady Jill Biden.

The celebrations hold deep significance for the region, emphasizing continuity in an Arab state prized for its longstanding stability and refreshing the monarchy's image after a palace feud. It even could help resource-poor Jordan forge a strategic bond with oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

The kingdom declared Thursday a public holiday so crowds of people could gather to wave at the couple's motorcade amid a heavy security presence across the city.

—Associated Press

SENEGAL

Opposition Leader Sentenced to Prison

Senegal opposition leader Ousmane Sonko was convicted Thursday of corrupting youth but acquitted on charges of raping a woman who worked at a massage parlor and making death threats against her.

The court sentenced Sonko to two years in prison. He didn't attend his trial in Dakar and was judged in absentia. His lawyer said a warrant hadn't been issued yet for the politician's arrest.

Sonko placed third in Senegal's 2019 presidential election and is popular with the country's youth. His supporters maintain his legal troubles are part of a government effort to derail his candidacy in the 2024 presidential election. Sonko is considered President Macky Sall's main competition.

Corrupting young people, which includes using one's position of power to have sex with people under age 21, is a criminal offense in Senegal that is punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to more than $6,000.

—Associated Press

TECHNOLOGY: META UNVEILS NEW HEADSET B4

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Peltz Reshuffles Trian's Top Ranks

Co-founder Garden steps down, as activist firm promotes next group of leaders

By Lauren Thomas

Feared activist investor **Trian Fund Management**, known for pushing for shake-ups at some of the biggest U.S. companies, is reshuffling its own top ranks and promoting the next generation of leaders.

Trian co-founder and Chief investment officer Ed Garden is stepping down, according to people familiar with the matter. Garden, 62 years old, will focus on managing his personal investments through his family office and remain a senior adviser at Trian, the people said.

His departure paves the way for Trian's co-heads of research, Josh Frank and Matt Peltz, the son of co-founder Nelson Peltz, to be appointed co-investment chiefs. Brian Baldwin, a partner who has been a member of Trian's investment team since 2007, will become head of research.

Trian's other two founding partners, the elder Peltz and Peter May, both 80, will continue to serve in their roles as chief executive and president, respectively. The firm's core investment committee will consist of the two Peltzes, May, Frank, Baldwin and Brian Schorr, a partner who is chief legal officer.

The move, in the works for a few months, comes as a surprise to some given Mr. Garden's central role at the firm. The youngest of the three co-founders, firm watchers expected he would stick around and could one day lead the business.

Founded in 2005, Trian has more than $7 billion in assets under management and focuses on the consumer, industrial and financial sectors. (Historically, Trian also raises additional funds for specific investments.)

Garden, who is Nelson Peltz's son-in-law, has served on the boards of a number of key Trian holdings over the years, including Wendy's, Family Dollar stores and BNY Mellon.

He landed a seat on General Electric's board in 2017 after Trian took a $2.5 billion stake in the industrial conglomerate, an investment that soured as the stock continued a yearslong slide. In 2021, GE said it would split into three public companies.

Trian most recently launched a short-lived proxy fight for a seat on Walt Disney's board, in which Nelson

Please turn to page B10

Vanguard Fined for Misleading Customers

By Justin Baer

Vanguard Group was fined and censured by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority for errors that appeared in more than eight million account statements.

Finra, Wall Street's self-regulator, said Vanguard had overstated projected yield and projected annual income for nine money-market funds. In a filing, signed last month by representatives of both Finra and Vanguard, it ordered the investing giant to pay $800,000.

Finra said a technical glitch caused the errors: Newer information from an automated data feed stopped overwriting certain existing data. For nearly a year, Vanguard sent out statements with inaccurate figures. For instance, September 2020 statements displayed an estimated yield of 1.87% for one money-market fund. A month later, after Vanguard corrected the error, statements showed the same fund with an estimated yield of 0.06%.

Vanguard was slow to fix the problem, Finra said, even after some 50 customers pointed out the errors.

The filing said Vanguard "accepts and consents" to Finra's findings without admitting or denying them. Vanguard has fixed the problems, which didn't affect customers' actual returns.

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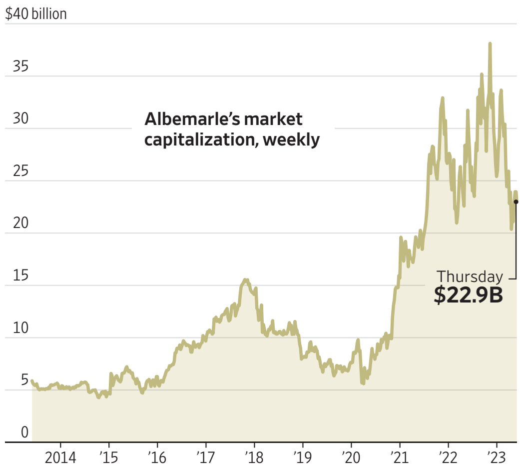
JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Lithium mine workers inspect machinery at an evaporation pond in Chile.



Source: FactSet

Once a Paper Maker, Now a Lithium King

By Julie Steinberg And Rhiannon Hoyle

Nearly a decade ago, executives at chemical company **Albemarle** shelled out $6 billion to buy a New Jersey lithium producer, betting demand for the silvery-white metal used in batteries was poised to take off.

Turns out, they were right.

Albemarle is now the world's most valuable lithium producer, with a stock-market capitalization of almost $23 billion. It is also the third-biggest producer of lithium chemicals used to make lithium-ion batteries, behind SQM of Chile and China's Ganfeng Lithium.

All that makes the Charlotte, N.C., company, which started off in 1887 as a paper mill, a key cog in a tight global supply chain for battery metals used in electric cars, smartphones and other applications at a time when governments are pushing to electrify their economies.

"The number of companies able to produce lithium at competitive costs is small, and Albemarle is one of them," says James Dow, investment manager at Scottish firm Baillie Gifford. He started buying Albemarle stock in 2017, and several Baillie Gifford funds now own a combined 2% stake.

"We think this is a 20-year story," Dow says.

The global lithium market was worth some $48 billion in sales last year, according to Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, up from $1.6 billion in 2015, at the time of Albemarle's big lithium deal. In May, **Ford Motor** signed a long-term contract with Albemarle to buy enough lithium to make around three million EV batteries.

To keep up with the demand, Albemarle has embarked on new acquisitions and capacity building.

In March, Albemarle proposed a $3.7 billion takeover of Liontown Resources, an Australian lithium miner that is developing one of the largest and highest-grade hard rock lithium deposits in the world. Liontown rejected the bid as too low.

JOHN LOCHER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lithium carbonate scooped at an Albemarle facility in Nevada.

It was Albemarle's third offer since mid-October, and bankers aren't expecting it to quickly walk away. Albemarle has accumulated a small stake in Liontown "to highlight a commitment to the transaction," the company has said.

The pursuit comes amid other deal making in the industry. Philadelphia-based Livent recently agreed to merge with Australia's Allkem, a move that would create a roughly $11 billion lithium player. Exxon Mobil recently bought rights to a chunk of promising lithium acreage in Arkansas.

Albemarle is also pushing ahead with organic growth. Lithium can be mined from the earth like other metals or extracted from briny water deposits. Albemarle gets its lithium both ways, at operations in Nevada, Chile and Australia.

It refines the extracted material into compounds that include lithium carbonate and lithium hydroxide, which are then used in battery production. Albemarle's integrated approach has put it at the center of Western efforts to diversify supply lines.

China has emerged as a global leader in EV production and is spending billions to boost its access to lithium-mine production globally. Meanwhile, it dominates the business of refining lithium extracted elsewhere in the world. The West is trying to

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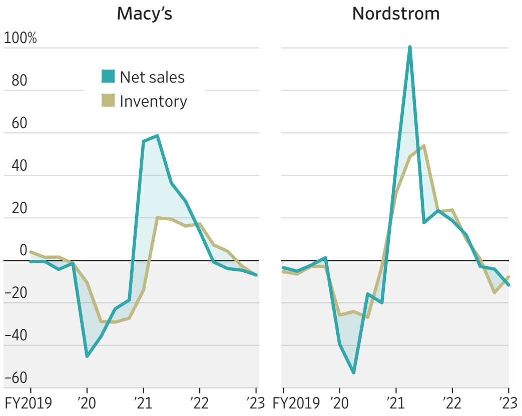
Sotheby's to buy the Whitney Museum's 1966 Brutalist building in New York. **B2**

AUTOS

Musk is feted in China after spurring electronic-vehicle industry. **B3**

Quarterly net sales and inventory, change from a year earlier



Note: Most recent fiscal quarter ended April 29

Source: S&P Capital IQ

Macy's Adds to Gloom in Retail Sector

By Suzanne Kapner

Retailers have finally worked through the piles of excess inventory that tripped them up a year ago. Now, they are facing another problem: slowing demand for apparel and accessories.

Macy's on Thursday cut its full-year outlook on sales and profits, citing challenges in the economic health of consumers. Chief Executive Jeff Gennette said sales trends began to weaken in late March. As a result, he said the department-store chain is stepping up promotions to clear out spring seasonal merchandise and adjusting its inventory plans later this year.

Gennette said demand has picked up as temperatures have turned warmer. He said he didn't have clarity whether the upturn reflected healthier consumers or pent-up demand for spring merchandise.

The improvement was most pronounced at the company's Bloomingdale's and Bluemercury chains, which typically cater to higher-income customers than Macy's. More than half of Macy's shoppers have household incomes of $75,000 or less and they continue to feel pressured, Gennette said, which is reflective of what he called a bifurcated consumer.

Net sales totaled nearly $5 billion in the quarter ended April 29, down 7% from a year earlier. Net income fell 46% to $155 million, or 56 cents a share.

Macy's shares opened the trading day lower but rallied and closed up more than 1% to $13.75. The stock is down 41% over the last year, compared with a 3% gain in the S&P 500 index.

Macy's capped an earnings season that underscored how inflation is continuing to take a bite out of consumer spending. Some retailers including **Walmart** and **BJ's Wholesale Club** that sell necessities like food and other consumables posted strong gains from a year ago, while those selling discretionary items such as sweaters and shoes reported slower growth or declining revenue. Shoppers continued to look for bargains, with even some wealthier consumers trading down.

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◆ Heard on the Street: Tough times at Dollar General B12

Small-Business Loan Standards Tightened

By Ruth Simon

Banks are tightening lending standards. Small businesses are paying the price.

Some entrepreneurs are finding it more difficult to get a new loan or have had existing credit lines cut. Others report stricter terms, higher borrowing costs, longer waits and tougher questions from their bankers.

"They are definitely being more conservative," said Brock Hutchinson, chief executive officer of Big Frig, a maker of coolers and drinkware in Northern Sioux City, S.D. "Things have tightened up."

Big Frig's sales slowed in the fourth quarter as corporate customers cut spending on promotional products. In response, the company's bank reduced the credit line for the 26-person company to $450,000 from $1 million early this year, Hutchinson said. The bank has raised its interest rate on a commercial-real-estate loan by more than 3 percentage points from a year ago and increased the required down payment, said Hutchinson, prompting the company to delay plans for a new $3 million building.

Nearly half of banks reported stricter loan standards for small businesses in the past three months, according to a survey of senior loan officers released by the Federal Reserve Board in May. More than half said they expect to tighten small-business lending standards further in 2023.

Many small businesses are reluctant to borrow, particularly at today's high rates. The median interest rate for a variable-rate, small-business term loan was 7.44% in the fourth quarter, the last period for which data are available, up 3.42 percentage points from a year earlier, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Banks have continued to

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Apple Customers Complain About Goldman Accounts

By AnnaMaria Andriotis

Apple's savings account, a partnership with **Goldman Sachs**, launched in April to great fanfare. Some customers say it has been hard to get their money out.

Nathan Thacker, who lives outside Atlanta, had been trying to transfer $1,700 from his Apple account to JPMorgan Chase since May 15. Each time he called Goldman's customer service department, he said, he was told to give it a few more days.

The money arrived in his Chase account Thursday morning, he said, after The Wall Street Journal contacted Goldman about his and other customers' experiences.

Others said they also had trouble transferring money from their new Apple accounts. Customer-service representa-

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Macy's Adds to Retail Woe

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Discount retailer **Dollar General**, which also on Thursday lowered its financial targets for the year, said the economic environment is impacting customer spending levels.

"We expect elevated inflation and interest rates will continue to pressure consumer spending throughout the year," Michael Maher, **Nordstrom**'s finance chief, told investors on Wednesday.

> **7%**
> Drop in net sales at Macy's in the quarter ended April 29

Retailers have largely worked through the inventory glut of last year that resulted from a loosening of pandemic-induced supply-chain bottlenecks at the same time that consumers started to tap the breaks on spending.

But in many cases, sales declined even more than inventory. Nordstrom finished the quarter with inventory down 8% compared with a year ago. But its sales fell 11.6%. At Michael Kors parent Capri Holdings, inventory fell 3.6% from a year earlier, but sales declined 10.5%.

Macy's inventory was down 7% from the prior year, in line with its sales decline

There are pockets of strength in retailing. Mall and shopping-center operators say that leasing activity is robust and rents are still growing, illustrating that there continues to be demand from retailers to sign deals for space in prime locations.

"Tenant demand is excellent and brick-and-mortar stores are where shoppers want to be," David Simon, CEO of mall owner Simon Property Group, told analysts last month.

Companies selling pricey handbags and jewelry are continuing to benefit from shoppers in North America and elsewhere paying up for items.

Sales of items associated with going out or spending time away from the home are performing well, too. Urban Outfitters executives said that sales at the company's Anthropologie brand were strong in the most recent quarter across more dressed-up categories, such as pants, dresses and heels. Macy's said among the best performers in its stores were fragrances, men's tailored wear, women's career sportswear and discounted items through its Backstage banner.

MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

The retailer cut its full-year outlook on sales and profit.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Old Whitney Museum Building To Be Acquired by Sotheby's

By Kelly Crow

ANGELA WEISS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Since leaving the space in 2014, the Whitney has leased it to other museums such as the Frick.

Sotheby's said Thursday it has agreed to buy the Whitney Museum of American Art's 1966 Brutalist building by Marcel Breuer on Manhattan's Madison Avenue and will transform the gray, modernist landmark into its new auction flagship by 2025.

The auction house said it will keep its current space on York Avenue but plans to retool the Breuer's five stories into its main showroom and saleroom—a coup for a house that aims to position its wares as being museum-worthy. The purchase was somewhere above $100 million, according to an auction house executive.

The move settles long-simmering rumors about the afterlife of the museum space, which the Whitney left in 2014 for new digs downtown and has since leased to fellow museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Frick Collection. Sotheby's said it will start taking over the Breuer in September once the Frick moves out after temporarily using the space while its own mansion four blocks south underwent renovation.

Adam Weinberg, the Whitney's director, said that a deal with Sotheby's made sense because the house pledged to preserve the building as an architectural masterpiece, allowing the Breuer to "continue to serve an artistic and cultural purpose through the display of artworks and artifacts."

Sotheby's chief executive, Charles Stewart, said that the house couldn't pass up on a chance to own a former museum, likening the Breuer to an artwork that comes with a prestigious ownership history. The granite building, whose cantilevered floors evoke an inverted ziggurat, has long been deemed the masterpiece of its Hungarian-born Bauhaus designer.

CHRISTINA HORSTEN/DPA/ZUMA PRESS

The Brutalist building by Marcel Breuer sits on Madison Avenue.

"This is a truly unique opportunity to reimagine an iconic and globally renown architectural landmark in the ideal location," Stewart said.

Despite the art market's efforts to globalize, the Breuer's location proved key to Sotheby's, the house said. Since 1980, the auction house has been situated on Manhattan's far eastern edge, surrounded by hospital buildings yet far removed from any of the city's museum or gallery clusters. Its move to a space on Madison Avenue at 75th Street places it in a prime gallery and museum area a block from Central Park. The move also represents a homecoming of sorts, as Sotheby's previously occupied another Madison Avenue building nearby now filled with galleries like Gagosian.

The experience for visiting bidders could be dramatic. Sotheby's current home evokes an airy, upscale shopping mall, with showrooms and a vast saleroom that wrap around a central set of escalators. The Breuer is known for its dim, bunker-like aesthetic whose five floors are reached mainly by a huge central elevator. Sotheby's said its new galleries will be free and open to the public.

Jean-Luc Berrebi, Sotheby's chief financial officer, said the deal is just one part of a broader real-estate reboot for the house. The house said later this year it plans to open new spaces in Hong Kong and Paris.

Miners Struggle to Attract New Hires

By Yusuf Khan

Lily Dickson was hurrying across the University of Leeds campus when a student campaigner handed her a flier that called for a ban on campus recruiting by mining and oil-and-gas companies.

The 24-year old doctoral student in geology was taken aback. She had recently returned from a trip to Finland, having worked with Vancouver-based miner **Mawson Gold**, exploring new places to mine cobalt in Europe.

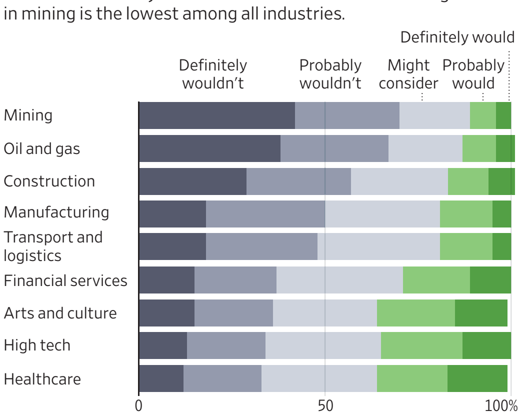
Last year, four U.K. universities—but not Leeds—banned mining firms from recruiting on campus and attending careers fairs, part of a broader trend of college graduates and young workers turning their backs on extractive industries.

Companies that mine copper, lithium and other metals—viewed as a critical part of the supply chain to produce green energy—say they are struggling to find enough young workers to support the transition. Most mining companies in the U.S., Australia and Europe say their expansion and growth plans could come under pressure if current hiring trends continue.

"Changing societal expectations place pressure on our brand as an employer, and require us to become better at communicating who we are and what we stand for," said **Rio Tinto** in its annual report.

Not Digging It

Share of 15- to 30-year-olds who would consider working in mining is the lowest among all industries.



Note: May not total 100% due to rounding
Source: Mining Industry Human Resources Council 2020 and 2021 Employer Surveys of 15 Canadian mining companies representing more than 25,000 employees conducted during December 2020 and January 2021 via McKinsey & Co.

Despite their part in the energy transition, mining faces a perception of being a "dirty" industry. A global survey by consulting firm McKinsey found 70% of 15- to 30-year-old respondents said that they definitely wouldn't or probably wouldn't work in mining.

In the U.S., the number of 2020 geology and earth-sciences graduates was nearly 25% less than in 2015, according to the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics. During that period, the total number of students graduating overall increased 8%.

Canada and Australia, countries where mining is a significant economic contributor, also saw student enrollment to related courses drop. In Australia, the total number of mining graduates fell 63% in 2020 from 2014, according to McKinsey. Canada's mining and mineral-engineering enrollment was down 10% in 2020 compared with 2016, according to Canada's Mining Industry Human Resources Council.

The declines are raising concerns of a future knowledge gap that could affect extraction.

"People have left before, but now we don't have the talent pipeline coming in, and we are also losing experience through retirees," said Alex Gorman, mining research analyst at Peel Hunt.

More than half of U.S. mine workers are aged 45 years or older, said Rohitesh Dhawan, chief executive of industry group, International Council on Mining and Metals. "The people we have in the industry now are typically older and closer to retirement," he said, adding that the recruiting challenge means the industry is "being squeezed on both sides."

According to a McKinsey survey, 86% of industry leaders found recruiting and retaining talent harder. Nearly three-quarters of those executives said the talent shortage is holding them back from delivering on production targets and strategic objectives. Rio Tinto has warned the shortfall could mean business delays or underperformance.

In the U.S., the job vacancy rate for mining and logging was 5.1% in March, up from 3.6% five years ago, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Canada's mining job vacancy rates have been trending upward since 2015 to a peak last summer of around 4% in mining and quarrying jobs and slightly over 6% for mining support activities. Likewise, in Australia, mining vacancies rose to 10,600 jobs in February, up from 2,500 in May 2016, the lowest level since 2009, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Albemarle Is Lithium Behemoth

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catch up. The Energy Department in October gave Albemarle a nearly $150 million grant for EV-battery making. In March, Albemarle said it would build a $1.3 billion-plus lithium-processing facility in South Carolina.

It has also been a lead player in the recent rapid development of the lithium industry in Western Australia, which is currently the world's biggest source of lithium production. In May, Albemarle said it plans to double the capacity of a plant in Western Australia that makes lithium hydroxide.

Lithium, the lightest of all metals, was discovered in 1817. For decades, its best-known use was the treatment of manic episodes of bipolar disorder. Its low mass and high energy-storage potential, though, also made it ideal as a battery component.

Exxon helped pioneer lithium-ion batteries in the 1970s, before dropping the business amid weak demand. The batteries eventually went mainstream, ending up in hand-held camcorders in the early 1990s. They first powered an EV, the Tesla Roadster, in 2008.

Apart from EV batteries, lithium is used in other clean-energy technologies, including industrial-scale batteries that can store energy from solar panels and wind farms and smaller ones for residential use.

Despite the recent tailwinds, Albemarle is facing its share of challenges. Its stock has drifted lower since peaking in November, as lithium prices have cooled and investors questioned the sustainability of the company's growth plans.

Chief Executive Kent Masters, who took over in 2020, has said the company's prospects are clear. "We have a tremendous growth opportunity ahead of us," he told investors in January.

The company has said it more than doubled net sales last year over the year before—to around $7.3 billion. It has projected net sales of some $18 billion by 2027. Last year, earnings increased nearly four times year-over-year, to $3.5 billion. Albemarle has said it expects that to double by 2027.

Geopolitics and labor issues have coincided with the steep demand rise. Albemarle operates in the Atacama Desert of Chile, where President Gabriel Boric in April announced plans to create a state-owned lithium company. He said the state would take a majority stake in partnerships with private companies to develop lithium.

Albemarle's shares fell 10% on the announcement, though they have since recovered. The company, whose agreement lasts through 2043, said it expects no material impact and the Chilean government "has made clear" it will respect existing mine contracts.

In Australia, Albemarle has had a tense relationship with union leaders, who have raised concerns about workplace safety and job openings for locals. Albemarle says the company is working to improve the management of dust at its processing plant in Western Australia and that it gives priority to local employment.

Albemarle got its start making blotter paper and paper for commercial packaging. In 1962, it bought a much bigger chemical company. Paper divestments followed, and Ethyl, as the company was then known, spun off its chemical business to become a publicly traded company called Albemarle. In the 2000s and 2010s, it added more chemicals businesses and sold off others.

Its dominance in lithium came after its $6.2 billion purchase of Rockwood, which held what continues to be the company's key lithium assets in Australia and Chile. Albemarle also runs the U.S.'s only operational lithium mine, in Silver Peak, Nev.

Luke Kissam, who ran the company for nearly a decade and orchestrated the Rockwood deal, said demand outstripped his forecasts at the time.

"Looking back, we underestimated the growth," Kissam said. Others, he said, underestimated Albemarle's ability to capitalize on that demand. "The Street didn't believe our forecasts. We far exceeded them in terms of revenue and profitability."

Boeing Delays Astronaut Flight

By Micah Maidenberg

Boeing delayed a long-awaited astronaut flight after identifying new safety issues on its spacecraft for such missions, another setback for the company's space business.

Officials at the aerospace giant and NASA said flammable tape Boeing used on its Starliner spacecraft and an issue with its parachute system prompted them to push off a planned July flight to the International Space Station.

"You can say we're disappointed because it means a delay, but the team's proud that we're making the right choices" to ensure a safe mission, Mark Nappi, a Boeing vice president overseeing Starliner, said at a briefing Thursday.

He declined to specify when the company could try to fly astronauts on Starliner, a gumdrop-shaped vehicle a rocket would blast to orbit.

Nearly a decade ago, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said the agency had hired both Boeing and SpaceX, formally called **Space Exploration Technologies**, to develop space vehicles the agency could use to transport its astronauts to and from the International Space Station.

The agency initially awarded Boeing a contract worth as much as $4.2 billion to create Starliner and fly astronauts. SpaceX received $2.6 billion at the time.

Since then, SpaceX has pulled ahead of Boeing in delivering vehicles that are capable of handling those flights. Its launch of astronauts to the space station in March marked the seventh time it has flown crew for NASA using its Falcon 9 rocket and Crew Dragon spacecraft.

Musk Feted in China for EV Role

By *Yoko Kubota, Raffaele Huang* and *Selina Cheng*

SHANGHAI—Elon Musk was welcomed enthusiastically by top Chinese officials this week in a visit that demonstrated **Tesla**'s commitment to the country that it helped push to become a world leader in electric vehicles.

While many American executives are rethinking their relationship with China amid rising geopolitical tensions, Musk took a flurry of meetings and the opportunity to praise the Shanghai factory that Tesla opened more than three years ago, which now accounts for more than half the company's global output.

Musk told staff during a visit Wednesday that the cars made in Shanghai are "not just the most efficient production, but also of the highest quality," according to a video posted on Tesla's Chinese social-media account.

Before flying out of the country on Thursday morning, Musk saw the revamped Model 3 sedan, a yet-to-be-released mass-market version that is being produced on a trial basis in the factory, people familiar with the matter said. Tesla hasn't refreshed its range for a while and is facing greater competition from Chinese rivals.

Musk talked on Tuesday with Robin Zeng, chairman of China-based battery maker Contemporary Amperex Technology, known as CATL, over a 16-course dinner at an upmarket Chinese restaurant in Beijing, people familiar with the matter said. The two executives discussed a potential battery project in the U.S., the people said, though with no firm plans agreed.

Musk's visit drew great interest from internet users in China, where he has celebrity status. Chinese officials used the trip to promote business ties with the U.S., though Beijing has been cracking down on some foreign companies in the name of national security. Authorities have raided due-diligence firms and detained staff, and last month China blacklisted some products from U.S. memory-chip maker Micron Technology.

After China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Musk on Tuesday, the ministry said Musk had told Qin that Tesla was opposed to decoupling the world's two biggest economies. Making an analogy to U.S.-China relations, Qin said one must avoid "dangerous driving." Musk also met China's top auto industry regulator, the commerce minister and Shanghai's Communist Party chief.

Musk and Tesla didn't respond to requests to comment. A Tesla executive reposted the foreign ministry's statement on her Chinese social-media account.

Musk is the latest in a long line of American executives to have visited China this year, with the country saying it is open for business after pandemic border controls were loosened. Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook and Pfizer's Albert Bourla traveled to China earlier this year to meet senior officials and visit local facilities.

Apple is among companies that are seeking to reduce dependence on China amid political uncertainties by diversifying production to countries including India and Vietnam.

Tesla plans new manufacturing plants around the world, but is also doubling down on China, saying in April that it plans to build a second factory in Shanghai to produce its Megapack energy-storage product. Long-mooted plans for another auto manufacturing plant in Shanghai, however, haven't shown any signs of progressing.

Chinese leaders encouraged Tesla to build its first factory, which opened in 2019, to help ignite consumer demand for EVs and provide competition for domestic EV makers that were considered sluggish by Beijing despite years of incentives.

It worked. Exports of Tesla cars from its Shanghai factory to Europe and Asia helped China surpass Japan as the world's largest vehicle exporter in the first quarter of this year. China is the world's largest EV market and is growing rapidly as Tesla's brand appeal helped nudge more consumers to switch from gas-powered cars. A supply chain built around Tesla now feeds a wave of improving homegrown EV makers.

Automotive industry executives who long saw China as a follower of global automotive trends now regard it as a trendsetter in electric cars. Foreign carmakers have acknowledged they need to play catch-up. Both Musk and Ford CEO Jim Farley have said that they regard Chinese companies as their biggest rivals in EVs.

Tesla's benefit to China can be seen through the supply chain it has helped develop. The company has said that its manufacturing in Shanghai had been 95% localized.

By stirring China's EV industry to life, Tesla, with two locally made models, now faces serious challenges from Chinese competitors. Domestic automakers made up 83% of all EVs sold in the country last year, according to the China Passenger Car Association. Tesla's market share has fallen to 10% last year from around 15% in 2020.

TINGSHU WANG/REUTERS

Elon Musk in a Tesla in Beijing on Wednesday. The visit reinforced his commitment to China.

Local EV Producers Follow Tesla's Lead

Many Chinese EV makers prefer to source from Tesla suppliers because of the perceived halo effect of using makers that meet Tesla's quality and production standards, people working for those companies said.

CATL, the world's biggest EV battery producer, relies on Tesla for 12% of its revenue and ships batteries to local EV makers such as NIO, XPeng and Li Auto, according to its last annual report.

Likewise, Tesla's manufacturing method has been taken up by Chinese rivals. For the Model Y, Tesla die-casts the car frame in one piece, a technique that reduces component use and weight, cuts costs and shortening assembly time.

The method is now used by a group of Chinese EV makers including NIO and XPeng, people familiar with the matter said. NIO uses the technique on its sedan ET5. It also sources from Tesla's car-frame supplier, Wencan Group.

Watch a Video

Scan this code for a video on Musk's visit to Tesla's factory in Shanghai.

Twitter to Undergo EU's Digital Stress Test Ahead Of New Law on Content

By Sam Schechner

European Union regulators plan to subject Twitter to a stress test to determine how well it complies with Europe's new digital-content law, a top EU tech regulator said, ramping up the bloc's preparations for enforcing the West's most far-reaching digital-content law.

A team of roughly five to 10 digital specialists from the EU plan to put Twitter, and possibly other companies, through their content-policing paces during a visit to San Francisco in late June, Thierry Breton, the bloc's commissioner for the internal market, said in an interview.

The test is voluntary, he said, and Twitter has agreed to be subjected to it. It won't carry any fines or other enforcement consequences. It will offer companies a dry run for how the EU's Digital Services Act, or DSA, will be enforced.

Twitter officials in Europe and the U.S. didn't respond to requests for comment. Twitter owner Elon Musk has said the company plans to comply with the EU law.

The law takes effect in late summer, empowering European regulators led by Breton to levy a maximum penalty of 6% of a company's annual revenue in case of violations. The EU has the power to block a service in the case of certain repeated infringements.

Twitter, which has for years come under scrutiny for its handling of content moderation, has been a focus for Breton—himself an avid user. Since Musk took over the company last fall, Breton and Musk have spoken several times, both in person and by video about the company's planned compliance with the Digital Services Act.

Breton has at times applauded Twitter commitments to comply with the law, and at other times warned that the company would have to do more.

Breton last week, noting Twitter had withdrawn from a voluntary EU code of conduct on disinformation policies, tweeted: "You can run but you can't hide," adding that "fighting disinformation will be legal obligation under #DSA as of August 25."

"I'm not threatening anyone," Breton said during the interview Thursday. "We are here to help companies comply with our new law."

In the run-up to the DSA, Twitter has moved to rely increasingly on a crowdsourced form of fact-checking called Community Notes, in which users flag tweets with potentially out-of-context or misleading information, and append an explanation. On Thursday, Breton declined to comment on that approach, or whether he thought the company would be ready for the DSA, saying that regulators would be looking for results.

The DSA's strictest rules will apply to at least 19 large platforms, including Twitter, beginning on Aug. 25, with smaller platforms coming into its scope next year.

"We'll see beginning on Aug. 25 what works and what doesn't," Breton said in the interview.

As part of the stress tests, Breton said he and the team plan to visit Twitter headquarters, meet with Musk and review how the company responds to what EU regulators view as problematic tweets, both ones they flag from centers in Europe and ones they don't.

The EU team will also look at why certain content might slip through the cracks, he said, citing a hypothetical example of "fake news that caused disturbances but was promoted because it generated virality and advertising.

"Did you have enough moderators beforehand? Was it promoted by the algorithm?" Breton said. "We want to do this for real, in the real world, so they see how it happens, and above all so they prepare," Breton said of the companies.

After the tests, the EU is likely to communicate a high-level readout of how the companies performed, but some details may be communicated to the companies alone, a spokesman for Breton said.

The stress tests come as part of a broader visit to Silicon Valley for Breton, where he said he plans to meet with top executives of several large companies including Instagram owner Meta Platforms and Alphabet, which owns Google.

Platform's Safety Chief Steps Down

Twitter's top official for monitoring safety and content moderation said she resigned Thursday, the second time an executive with that role has departed since Elon Musk bought the social media company in October.

Ella Irwin, Twitter's head of trust and safety, declined to comment on the reason for her departure.

Also on Thursday, Musk said Twitter employees had erred in how they handled the posting of a documentary.

Jeremy Boreing, the co-founder and co-CEO of the media company the Daily Wire, said in a series of tweets that Twitter had tried to suppress the movie by saying the content violated Twitter's policy against misgendering.

"This was a mistake by many people at Twitter," Musk tweeted in response to Boreing's complaints. "Whether or not you agree with using someone's preferred pronouns, not doing so is at most rude and certainly breaks no laws."

—Alexa Corse

OLEKSANDR RATUSHNIAK/REUTERS

SpaceX's Starlink internet service has played a prominent role during the conflict in Ukraine.

Pentagon to Pay SpaceX for Satellite Internet in Ukraine

By Micah Maidenberg And Matthew Luxmoore

The Pentagon agreed to pay **SpaceX** to offer satellite internet in Ukraine, after months of discussion about whether the military would fund the service during the country's war with Russia.

A spokesman for the Defense Department on Thursday confirmed a deal with Starlink, as SpaceX's satellite-powered internet division is called.

He declined to discuss specifics about the contract, such as its value, citing security concerns.

"We continue to work with a range of global partners to ensure Ukraine has the satellite and communication capabilities they need—and that includes Starlink," he said. SpaceX didn't respond to a request to comment.

Starlink has played a prominent role during the conflict, providing high-speed connections to Ukrainian government agencies and armed forces. Elon Musk made the service available in the country in February of last year, two days after Russia invaded the country and following a request from a Ukrainian government minister.

In October, Musk said SpaceX spending on Starlink for Ukraine was approaching $20 million a month and that the company couldn't fund the service in Ukraine indefinitely. Musk then backtracked and said on Twitter the company would continue paying for Starlink in Ukraine on its own.

Outside funders also have paid for Starlink user terminals for Ukraine, including the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Polish government.

Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX's president, said in February the company would limit Starlink service in Ukraine to prevent offensive military use of the terminals.

Ukrainian soldiers told The Wall Street Journal at the time that Starlink was largely working as normal for front-line units, but some had reported issues with terminals attached to strike drones.

The Pentagon agreement with SpaceX would be a boost for Ukraine's war effort, since Starlink is used to facilitate critical military communications.

It is often used, for example, by reconnaissance teams who send drones over Russian positions and use a Starlink setup at their location to beam live video to artillery commanders and to talk via encrypted chats to direct artillery strikes, the Journal has reported.

Along with a rocket-launch division, Starlink is one of the two main businesses SpaceX operates. The service relies on a swarm of linked satellites in low-Earth orbit to provide what are designed to be high-speed internet connections to users on the ground.

The company has around 4,000 satellites in orbit and regularly launches additional satellites using its fleet of Falcon 9 rockets.

In May, Starlink said in a tweet it had more than 1.5 million customers.

CNN Names Warner Bros. Executive COO

Leavy will handle the business side, allowing network CEO Licht to focus on programming

By Isabella Simonetti And Joe Flint

CNN tapped **Warner Bros. Discovery** Chief Corporate Affairs Officer David Leavy as its chief operating officer, bringing in a seasoned executive from its parent company to help Chief Executive Chris Licht manage a network that is facing steep declines in ratings.

A top lieutenant to Warner Bros. Discovery Chief Executive David Zaslav, Leavy has a varied background that includes experience in politics and communications.

In recent weeks, Leavy had been working closely with Licht on a search for a chief operating officer and the two had developed a close relationship leading to the appointment, a person close to the situation said.

In his new role, Leavy will take over commercial, operational and promotional activities across CNN, according to an email from CNN detailing the appointment on Thursday.

He will start his new role on June 20 and will be based in Washington, D.C.

In the email, Licht said Leavy would work with him and the senior leadership team "to help transform our business as we get the full programming slate on the air, build out our digital future and grow the CNN brand around the world."

Leavy joins CNN at a critical time for the all-news channel, which celebrated its 43rd anniversary on Thursday.

AMANDA EDWARDS/GETTY IMAGES FOR DISCOVERY

WB Discovery's David Leavy

Since taking over as CEO last year, Licht has been experimenting with new programming to counter a ratings slide, including a new morning show that has struggled to gain traction.

The network recently received criticism from a number of pundits for hosting former President Donald Trump for a town hall in May. CNN defended its decision to hold the town hall.

While Zaslav has praised Licht's leadership and decision-making, the move to appoint Leavy as the network's chief operating officer will give Licht the chance to focus more on programming and digital strategy. In Leavy, Licht gains a strategic executive who is well-versed in the operating and management style of Zaslav and Warner Bros. Discovery.

CNN parent Warner Bros. Discovery has been in cost-cutting mode practically since the completion of the merger of Discovery and WarnerMedia last year. Now, another significant round of layoffs is expected next month for its traditional cable networks and elsewhere at the company, people familiar with the matter said. CNN has already made significant cuts to its operations in the past year and continues to look for cost-saving measures, The Wall Street Journal previously reported.

The appointment as CNN chief operating officer gives Leavy much larger operational responsibilities than he held in previous roles. Leavy will continue to have "public policy and social responsibility oversight on behalf of Warner Bros Discovery going forward," the CNN email said.

Most recently, Leavy played a crucial role in Warner Bros. Discovery's efforts to get author J.K. Rowling to sign off on the company creating more Harry Potter-themed content, the Journal previously reported. Zaslav had said to colleagues since taking the reins at Warner Bros. after Discovery merged with the entertainment company last year that he was on a "mission from God" to get new Harry Potter content.

In April, the company announced plans to create several programs for its Max streaming service using the Potter books.

Since then, Leavy had been discussing a new role with Zaslav at the company, a person familiar with this thinking said.

He was uninterested in relocating to Los Angeles or New York, where Zaslav now spends much of his time and where other top executives and aides are based.

Leavy also has political experience. He served as chief spokesman and senior director of public affairs for the National Security Council and as deputy press secretary for foreign affairs under former President Bill Clinton.

Meta Unveils New Headset As It Presses Virtual Shift

By Joseph De Avila

Meta Platforms Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg introduced the latest version of the company's virtual-reality headset, called Meta Quest 3, days ahead of the expected competition.

The Meta Quest 3, powered by a new chip from Qualcomm, will be thinner and have updated displays and resolution. Zuckerberg said Thursday in a video on social media that it is the company's most powerful headset yet.

Meta's new VR headset is expected to go on sale this fall and will start at $499, Zuckerberg said. The company will release additional details at its Connect conference in September, he said.

The announcement comes days ahead of **Apple**'s annual Worldwide Developers Conference, where it too is expected to debut a new VR headset.

Zuckerberg shifted his company to focus on immersive virtual worlds, or the metaverse, in a strategic change that led to the 2021 rebranding of Facebook as Meta. The social-media giant has spent billions of dollars on headsets, software and apps for the metaverse.

But the virtual world has faced a harsh reality amid slow user adoption. Tech companies have been cutting jobs and abandoning projects deemed nonessential. Mr. Zuckerberg has called 2023 "the year of efficiency."

Consumer adoption of VR programs has been a challenge for Meta. Reality Labs, which makes the Meta Quest headsets, posted an operating loss of $4 billion during the first three months of the year. Other competitors like Microsoft have also struggled to get consumers to buy into VR programs.

"Building the metaverse is a long-term project, but the rationale for it remains the same and we remain committed to it," Zuckerberg said in April.

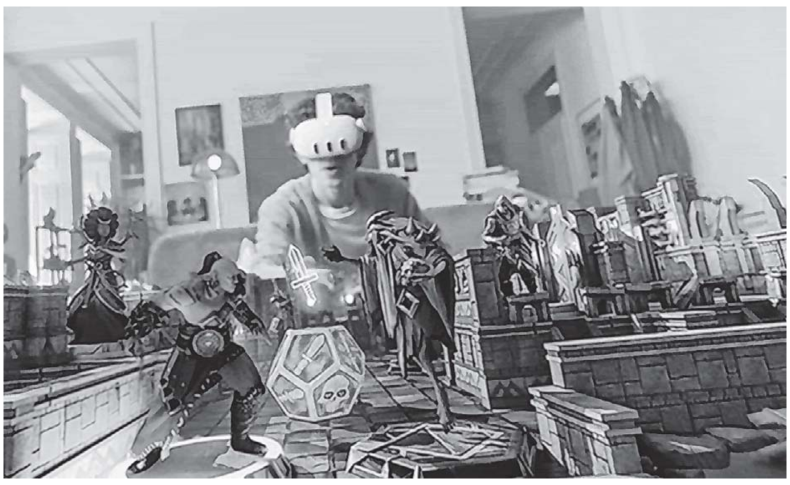
Meta dropped the price of its Meta Quest Pro headsets in March from $1,499 to $999 in the U.S. and Canada. The Quest 2 VR headsets with 256 gigabytes fell to $429 from $499.

Meta's new VR headset is making its debut as the company faces increasing competition from companies including TikTok parent ByteDance. ByteDance recently offered to pay developers who have made VR software for Meta to bring their apps to its own Pico headsets. Sony Group launched its PlayStation VR2 earlier this year, the second version of its VR headset.

Apple is expected to unveil a mixed-reality headset that combines augmented and virtual reality, the Journal has reported. The company is expecting slower adoption for the headset compared with hit products such as the Apple Watch or the iPhone.

Global shipments of augmented-reality and VR headsets slowed in the first quarter as demand for the headsets has cooled from highs seen at the start of the pandemic, according to International Data Corporation. Shipments for the AR and VR headset market declined by 54% during the first three months of 2023 compared with the same period last year, IDC said Thursday.

Meta controlled about 48% of the market share among AR and VR headset makers, followed by Sony's PlayStation VR2 with 36%, according to IDC.



META

The Meta Quest 3 will be thinner than current models and have updated displays and resolution.

Company Mandates Three Days in Office

Meta Platforms employees assigned to an office will have to start coming in three days a week starting in September, as the company shifts to a more structured hybrid schedule.

The move won't affect workers who have remote positions, Meta said Thursday. The three-day mandate only applies to workers already in an office some days. It will take effect Sept. 5.

"We're confident people can make a meaningful impact both from the office and at home," a Meta spokesperson said.

The change is meant to foster "the collaboration, relationships and culture necessary for employees to do their best work," the spokesperson said.

The change was reported earlier Thursday by the Information.

Meta workers average about 2.2 days a week in the office, according to a memo distributed to employees about the new policy. Roughly 75% of the company workforce is in-office. "We've always aimed to have a flexible and hard-working culture, and as we design for the future, we'll continue to be thoughtful about how we manage our work, our time and our relationships," said the memo, which was viewed by The Wall Street Journal.

In March, the tech company said it would cut roughly 10,000 jobs over several months to be more efficient in a difficult economy.

—Ginger Adams Otis

Lending Standards Tightened

Continued from page B1

raise rates this year in response to Fed rate increases, said Ami Kassar, CEO of business-loan adviser MultiFunding.

"Before, if we needed to buy a truck, we would go and finance it," said Guiomar Obregon, CEO of Precision 2000, a construction company in Atlanta with nearly 80 employees. "Now, I think, 'Do we need it now? Can we wait?' "

Seventy-seven percent of small businesses said in April they were concerned about their ability to access capital, according to a survey of 1,740 small businesses by Goldman Sachs, up from 23% a year earlier.

Tamara Keefe, owner of Clementine's Naughty & Nice Creamery in St. Louis, said she moved forward with plans to open two new locations based on her bank's assurances it would provide two loans and a line of credit, backed by the Small Business Administration. But the bank moved slowly, said Keefe, and she drained cash reserves to cover the costs of the build-out, equipment and inventory.

The bank gave the business a $150,000 emergency line of credit then told her she had to repay the credit line to close on the new SBA loans. The 158-person company makes specialty ice creams in flavors such as Gooey Butter Cake and Maple Bourbon.

Keefe said when she received a term sheet in May, the premium over the prime rate was larger than expected. The bank also boosted cash-flow requirements. The new loans, totaling $1.1 million, carry a variable rate, currently 11.5%, well above the 6% fixed-rate loan she sought last year. "I am down to the wire," said Keefe. "The loan is not closed," she said. "I'm devastated."

Banks began tightening lending standards last year, amid worries about a slowing economy. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank heightened concerns about liquidity.

Small businesses tend to borrow from small banks and are less likely to secure loans from the banking giants. "The alternative to borrowing from your local small bank is another form of financing that is going to be notably more expensive," said Goldman Sachs chief U.S. economist David Mericle.

The appetite for lending varies by bank. Tightening has been most pronounced at midsize banks, according to Federal Reserve data. Banks have long favored customers with deposits and other relationships, but those factors have taken on even greater weight.

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Startups Aim to Extend Vaccines' Reach With Skin-Patch Technology

By Brian Gormley

In several countries, the effort to eradicate measles runs into the logistical obstacle of insufficient cold storage for vaccines.

Patches from startups including **Micron Biomedical** and **Vaxxas** could overcome this difficulty and extend the reach of vaccines in nations where measles outbreaks occur because of relatively low vaccination rates. Measles vaccine doses are sensitive to heat and must be kept cold.

That isn't a concern in the U.S., but is an obstacle to vaccinations in remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa and other locations where access to electricity and refrigeration is limited, researchers say.

Atlanta-based Micron says its patch significantly reduces or eliminates the need for cold storage of drugs and vaccines. The company, which recently increased its Series A venture funding to $17 million, in May said it received promising results from an early study of a vaccine patch for measles and rubella—another viral disease—that was conducted in Gambia, a West African country.

Vaxxas, backed with about $75 million in venture funding, has a measles-rubella vaccine patch that recently completed an early study. It expects a larger trial to begin next year.

Micron and Vaxxas, which have received grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support this work, say they expect to make little if any profit on measles-rubella patches. Both also are applying their technology to vaccines with potential applications in the U.S. and other high-income countries.

VAXXAS

A Vaxxas patch administers vaccines through many tiny needles.

But they say they have a sense of urgency to tackle this global-health threat.

"The motivation is as high as it can possibly be to get it to market in a safe and effective way," Micron Chief Executive Steven Damon said.

Measles caused 128,000 deaths in 2021, according to the World Health Organization. Nearly all deaths occur in low-income countries or those with weak health infrastructures.

Conventional measles vaccination involves inserting a syringe into a vial to draw a diluting solution that is injected into a second vial containing the vaccine, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Once mixed, the vaccine is drawn up and injected into the arm.

Vaccines delivered through the Micron and Vaxxas patches are in formulations that are stable at higher temperatures, the companies say.

Micron's patch uses tiny needles that dissolve in the skin to release the vaccine. The study of its measles-rubella patch in Gambia found that the patch triggered an immune response similar to an injected vaccine, Micron said in May. The study enrolled 45 adults, 120 toddlers and 120 infants who were randomized to receive the vaccine through the patch or injection, Micron said.

Cold storage isn't the only obstacle to measles vaccination in sub-Saharan Africa, said Dr. Ed Clarke, who led the study in Gambia. Others include the distance many people live from medical care, he said.

But patches could help solve the last-mile challenge of delivering vaccines to children in remote areas, he said. Vaccination rates of 95% or greater are needed to eliminate measles, but sub-Saharan African countries typically fall short, he added.

"There's a big gap between the level of coverage you need and the coverage that's being achieved in this part of the world," said Clarke, head of infant immunology for the U.K.'s Medical Research Council unit in Gambia, which is part of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Larger studies are needed to confirm the efficacy of Micron's measles-rubella patch, he said.

The patch eliminates the need to handle needles that must be properly disposed of, said James Goodson, a senior scientist and epidemiologist in the CDC's global immunization division and a co-investigator on the study. That would make it easier to conduct door-to-door vaccination campaigns, he said.

"The potential public-health impact is huge for this technology," Goodson said.

Vaxxas's patch uses tiny needles that are coated with the vaccine. Its patch, applied through an applicator, delivers the vaccine in seconds, CEO David Hoey said.

Cambridge, Mass.-based Vaxxas also is advancing a seasonal influenza vaccine delivered through its patch technology.

Patches are a promising approach because they could be a solution to challenges such as the need for cold storage and patients' preference to avoid needles, said Glenn Rockman founder and managing partner of Adjuvant Capital, a venture-capital firm that invests in startups seeking to make medical care more accessible in developing countries. It hasn't invested in Micron or Vaxxas.

Patch developers face hurdles such as convincing regulators their approaches are as effective as injected vaccines, he said, adding that other potential solutions include oral and intranasal delivery.

Dr. Matt Goldman, a partner with Micron investor **J2 Ventures**, said the Micron technology has several possible uses in the U.S. For example, drugs and vaccines that are now injected by a medical professional potentially could be self-administered, he said.

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MARKETS DIGEST

EQUITIES

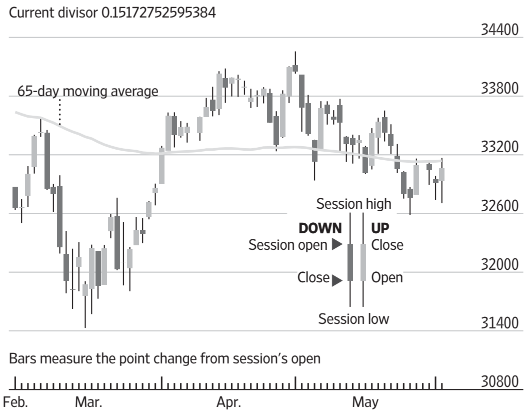
Dow Jones Industrial Average

33061.57 ▲153.30, or 0.47%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio	22.02	18.94
P/E estimate *	17.35	17.13
Dividend yield	2.18	2.16
All-time high	36799.65, 01/04/22	

Current divisor 0.15172752595384

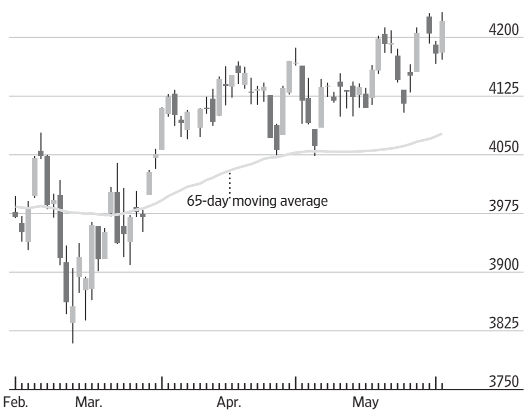


S&P 500 Index

4221.02 ▲41.19, or 0.99%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio *	18.37	21.09
P/E estimate *	18.55	17.63
Dividend yield *	1.67	1.54
All-time high	4796.56, 01/03/22	

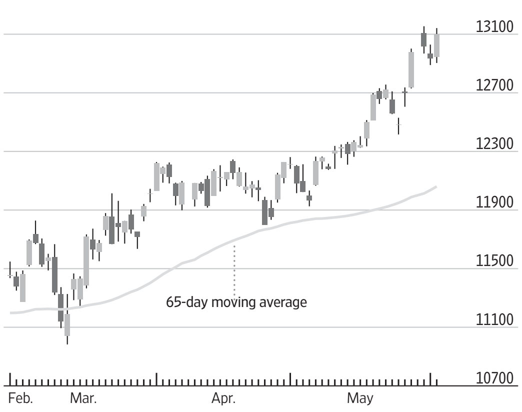


Nasdaq Composite Index

13100.98 ▲165.70, or 1.28%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio *†	28.27	25.43
P/E estimate *†	26.67	22.01
Dividend yield *†	0.80	0.88
All-time high:	16057.44, 11/19/21	



*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc.; †Based on Nasdaq-100 Index

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	High	Low	Latest Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	52-Week Low	% chg	% chg YTD	% chg 3-yr. ann.
Dow Jones										
Industrial Average	33167.75	32704.51	**33061.57**	153.30	**0.47**	34589.77	28725.51	**-0.6**	-0.3	**9.1**
Transportation Avg	13907.76	13647.82	**13880.17**	170.43	**1.24**	15640.70	11999.40	**-4.2**	3.6	**15.7**
Utility Average	901.51	886.21	**890.84**	-9.53	**-1.06**	1061.77	838.99	**-13.2**	-7.9	**3.0**
Total Stock Market	42150.27	41519.00	**42030.78**	413.48	**0.99**	43441.80	36056.21	**-0.0**	9.1	**10.6**
Barron's 400	909.49	894.40	**907.10**	11.74	**1.31**	1023.20	825.73	**-7.8**	-1.4	**11.1**
Nasdaq Stock Market										
Nasdaq Composite	13141.83	12903.63	**13100.98**	165.70	**1.28**	13128.05	10213.29	**6.4**	25.2	**11.1**
Nasdaq-100	14493.31	14219.94	**14441.51**	187.42	**1.31**	14441.51	10679.34	**12.0**	32.0	**14.6**
S&P										
500 Index	4232.43	4171.64	**4221.02**	41.19	**0.99**	4305.20	3577.03	**1.1**	9.9	**11.4**
MidCap 400	2431.89	2398.55	**2426.25**	19.58	**0.81**	2726.61	2200.75	**-4.8**	-0.2	**10.8**
SmallCap 600	1138.74	1120.98	**1135.58**	9.64	**0.86**	1315.82	1064.45	**-9.5**	-1.9	**11.9**
Other Indexes										
Russell 2000	1773.01	1744.37	**1767.94**	18.29	**1.05**	2021.35	1649.84	**-6.8**	0.4	**8.0**
NYSE Composite	15069.94	14872.28	**15031.09**	143.94	**0.97**	16122.58	13472.18	**-5.8**	-1.0	**8.1**
Value Line	535.83	527.91	**534.24**	4.68	**0.88**	606.49	491.56	**-9.7**	-0.4	**6.7**
NYSE Arca Biotech	5300.48	5206.46	**5284.44**	47.69	**0.91**	5644.50	4208.43	**14.8**	0.1	**-2.1**
NYSE Arca Pharma	848.12	837.91	**845.83**	-0.75	**-0.09**	892.45	737.84	**0.8**	-2.5	**9.2**
KBW Bank	77.90	75.74	**77.38**	1.22	**1.61**	115.97	71.96	**-33.3**	-23.3	**0.7**
PHLX§ Gold/Silver	127.54	123.03	**126.40**	4.01	**3.27**	144.37	91.40	**-7.6**	4.6	**0.9**
PHLX§ Oil Service	72.77	69.48	**72.07**	2.78	**4.01**	93.94	56.08	**-13.1**	-14.1	**30.1**
PHLX§ Semiconductor	3537.82	3437.89	**3506.74**	53.56	**1.55**	3549.39	2162.32	**11.0**	38.5	**23.9**
Cboe Volatility	17.59	15.58	**15.65**	-2.29	**-12.76**	34.02	15.65	**-36.7**	-27.8	**-17.9**

§Nasdaq PHLX

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Late Trading

Most-active and biggest movers among NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE Amer. and Nasdaq issues from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET as reported by electronic trading services, securities dealers and regional exchanges. Minimum share price of $2 and minimum after-hours volume of 50,000 shares.

Most-active issues in late trading

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	After Hours % chg	High	Low
Apple	AAPL	7,524.8	180.40	0.31	**0.17**	180.62	174.50
SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust	SPY	7,359.1	422.27	0.45	**0.11**	422.50	420.18
Bank of Hawaii	BOH	4,978.5	40.50	0.50	**1.25**	40.88	39.32
Nu Holdings A	NU	4,676.7	6.81	-0.02	**-0.29**	6.84	6.77
Verizon Communications	VZ	4,308.7	35.77	0.05	**0.14**	35.82	35.63
SentinelOne	S	4,112.2	13.30	-7.42	**-35.81**	20.99	13.15
Ready Capital	RC	4,002.2	10.16	0.23	**2.34**	10.24	9.81
SLM Corp	SLM	3,572.6	15.39	...	**unch.**	15.43	15.39

Percentage gainers...

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	After Hours % chg	High	Low
LAVA Therapeutics	LVTX	204.5	2.38	0.48	**25.26**	2.87	1.93
MongoDB	MDB	659.0	356.01	62.05	**21.11**	361.99	291.00
Samsara	IOT	354.3	21.70	2.69	**14.15**	21.88	18.95
lululemon athletica	LULU	1,030.4	372.00	43.65	**13.29**	373.60	315.05
Alliant Energy	LNT	319.3	55.06	4.15	**8.16**	55.06	50.00

...And losers

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	After Hours % chg	High	Low
SentinelOne	S	4,112.2	13.30	-7.42	**-35.81**	20.99	13.15
PagerDuty	PD	535.6	23.39	-4.36	**-15.71**	29.00	22.50
Elastic	ESTC	108.3	67.00	-4.66	**-6.50**	72.50	62.00
ChargePoint Holdings	CHPT	1,790.3	9.20	-0.55	**-5.64**	10.21	8.67
Stoke Therapeutics	STOK	146.0	10.76	-0.53	**-4.69**	11.29	10.76

Trading Diary

Volume, Advancers, Decliners

	NYSE	NYSE Amer.
Total volume*	991,296,051	8,394,860
Adv. volume*	730,910,005	6,129,688
Decl. volume*	247,019,057	2,118,573
Issues traded	3,079	320
Advances	2,139	197
Declines	836	106
Unchanged	104	17
New highs	27	2
New lows	76	21
Closing Arms†	0.86	0.53
Block trades*	4,609	102

	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total volume*	4,610,319,533	328,882,260
Adv. volume*	3,142,921,768	265,510,275
Decl. volume*	1,399,897,837	62,719,163
Issues traded	4,613	1,761
Advances	2,929	1,580
Declines	1,473	174
Unchanged	211	7
New highs	80	53
New lows	123	27
Closing Arms†	0.89	3.20
Block trades*	23,768	1,440

* Primary market NYSE, NYSE American NYSE Arca only.
†(TRIN) A comparison of the number of advancing and declining issues with the volume of shares rising and falling. An Arms of less than 1 indicates buying demand; above 1 indicates selling pressure.

International Stock Indexes

Region/Country	Index	Close	Latest Net chg	Latest % chg	YTD % chg
World	**MSCI ACWI**	**653.02**	6.65	**1.03**	7.9
	MSCI ACWI ex-USA	**293.77**	3.12	**1.07**	4.4
	MSCI World	**2831.66**	31.10	**1.11**	8.8
	MSCI Emerging Markets	**961.80**	3.27	**0.34**	0.6
Americas	**MSCI AC Americas**	**1598.14**	16.29	**1.03**	9.7
Canada	**S&P/TSX Comp**	**19672.25**	100.01	**0.51**	1.5
Latin Amer.	**MSCI EM Latin America**	**2258.76**	60.42	**2.75**	6.1
Brazil	**BOVESPA**	**110564.66**	2229.59	**2.06**	0.8
Chile	**S&P IPSA**	**3120.01**	27.80	**0.90**	–1.7
Mexico	**S&P/BMV IPC**	**52724.03**	–12.23	**–0.02**	8.8
EMEA	**STOXX Europe 600**	**455.27**	3.51	**0.78**	7.2
Eurozone	**Euro STOXX**	**449.29**	4.11	**0.92**	9.6
Belgium	**Bel-20**	**3551.92**	15.13	**0.43**	–4.0
Denmark	**OMX Copenhagen 20**	**2035.75**	–10.15	**–0.50**	10.9
France	**CAC 40**	**7137.43**	38.73	**0.55**	10.3
Germany	**DAX**	**15853.66**	189.64	**1.21**	13.9
Israel	**Tel Aviv**	**1729.35**	–15.57	**–0.89**	–3.8
Italy	**FTSE MIB**	**26575.69**	524.36	**2.01**	12.1
Netherlands	**AEX**	**756.35**	7.49	**1.00**	9.8
Norway	**Oslo Bors All-Share**	**1358.66**	4.22	**0.31**	–0.3
South Africa	**FTSE/JSE All-Share**	**75783.25**	715.78	**0.95**	3.7
Spain	**IBEX 35**	**9167.50**	117.30	**1.30**	11.4
Sweden	**OMX Stockholm**	**835.80**	5.51	**0.66**	6.9
Switzerland	**Swiss Market**	**11296.28**	78.39	**0.70**	5.3
Turkey	**BIST 100**	**4959.80**	72.89	**1.49**	–10.0
U.K.	**FTSE 100**	**7490.27**	44.13	**0.59**	0.5
U.K.	**FTSE 250**	**18827.76**	104.86	**0.56**	–0.1
Asia-Pacific	**MSCI AC Asia Pacific**	**159.51**	1.12	**0.70**	2.4
Australia	**S&P/ASX 200**	**7110.80**	19.49	**0.27**	1.0
China	**Shanghai Composite**	**3204.63**	0.07	**0.002**	3.7
Hong Kong	**Hang Seng**	**18216.91**	–17.36	**–0.10**	–7.9
India	**S&P BSE Sensex**	**62428.54**	–193.69	**–0.31**	2.6
Japan	**NIKKEI 225**	**31148.01**	260.13	**0.84**	19.4
Singapore	**Straits Times**	**3166.30**	7.51	**0.24**	–2.6
South Korea	**KOSPI**	**2569.17**	–7.95	**–0.31**	14.9
Taiwan	**TAIEX**	**16512.65**	–66.31	**–0.40**	16.8
Thailand	**SET**	**1521.40**	–12.14	**–0.79**	–8.8

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Percentage Gainers...

Company	Symbol	Latest Session Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg
U Power	UCAR	7.59	4.48	**144.05**	75.00	2.98	**...**
Tigo Energy	TYGO	21.52	9.80	**83.62**	27.00	7.65	**116.1**
Lands' End	LE	8.30	2.03	**32.38**	18.15	6.20	**-34.0**
GSI Technology	GSIT	7.65	1.86	**32.12**	7.85	1.45	**92.7**
Troika Media Group	TRKA	3.80	0.75	**24.49**	31.75	2.38	**-85.1**
Credo Tech Group	CRDO	16.54	3.12	**23.25**	19.46	7.20	**27.8**
Carvana Cl A	CVNA	15.80	2.88	**22.29**	58.05	3.55	**-47.5**
Chewy Cl A	CHWY	35.85	6.36	**21.57**	52.88	25.80	**22.9**
Immuneering	IMRX	9.42	1.67	**21.55**	16.17	3.70	**125.9**
Cognition Therapeutics	CGTX	2.49	0.44	**21.46**	6.27	1.07	**-0.4**
Apollomics Cl A	APLM	4.85	0.80	**19.75**	49.00	3.71	**-51.7**
Veeva Systems Cl A	VEEV	198.30	32.60	**19.67**	232.26	151.02	**3.0**
Kingsoft Cloud ADR	KC	5.33	0.87	**19.51**	10.13	1.77	**10.4**
Pure Storage Cl A	PSTG	34.28	5.49	**19.07**	35.42	22.14	**20.8**
Biohaven	BHVN	20.73	3.22	**18.39**	21.25	5.54	**...**

Percentage Losers

Company	Symbol	Latest Session Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg
DZS	DZSI	3.82	-2.17	**-36.23**	19.66	3.60	**-80.2**
Professional Diversity	IPDN	2.90	-0.92	**-24.08**	7.77	0.92	**60.3**
Veritone	VERI	3.00	-0.94	**-23.86**	10.99	2.98	**-62.4**
Jupiter Wellness Acqn	JWAC	5.65	-1.73	**-23.48**	13.02	3.60	**-43.1**
Birks Group	BGI	7.36	-1.90	**-20.52**	10.02	5.00	**44.6**
Kiora Pharmaceuticals	KPRX	1.67	-0.43	**-20.33**	26.20	1.66	**-89.3**
Dollar General	DG	161.86	-39.23	**-19.51**	261.59	159.12	**-28.0**
Lexicon Pharmaceuticals	LXRX	2.71	-0.59	**-17.88**	3.79	1.31	**54.9**
Okta Cl A	OKTA	74.69	-16.21	**-17.83**	111.35	44.12	**-20.3**
Cibus	CBUS	26.05	-5.45	**-17.30**	38.85	6.25	**62.8**
Lucid Group	LCID	6.50	-1.26	**-16.24**	21.78	6.09	**-67.4**
Purple Innovation	PRPL	2.91	-0.55	**-15.90**	6.76	2.20	**-39.5**
Castle Biosciences	CSTL	21.05	-3.38	**-13.84**	36.10	15.58	**1.3**
T Stamp	IDAI	2.19	-0.35	**-13.78**	10.70	1.24	**-78.0**
C3.ai	AI	34.72	-5.29	**-13.22**	44.02	10.16	**97.0**

Most Active Stocks

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	% chg from 65-day avg	Latest Session Close	% chg	52-Week High	Low
Lucid Group	LCID	**160,365**	863.0	6.50	**-16.24**	21.78	6.09
Tesla	TSLA	**147,428**	10.7	207.52	**1.76**	314.67	101.81
Palantir Technologies	PLTR	**125,279**	147.3	14.54	**-1.16**	15.22	5.92
U Power	UCAR	**122,376**	4099.8	7.59	**144.05**	75.00	2.98
ProSh UltraPro Shrt QQQ	SQQQ	**116,858**	-10.4	22.22	**-3.64**	69.55	21.82
T2 Biosystems	TTOO	**111,611**	1815.5	0.11	**17.78**	15.00	0.09
ProShares UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	**107,668**	-23.3	36.01	**3.63**	39.38	16.10
SoFi Technologies	SOFI	**107,015**	180.8	6.82	**-1.73**	8.52	4.24
ProSh Ult Bbg Nat Gas	BOIL	**93,230**	38.8	2.33	**-8.98**	140.50	2.28
SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust	SPY	**88,492**	-0.7	421.82	**0.95**	431.73	348.11

* Volumes of 100,000 shares or more are rounded to the nearest thousand

Volume Movers

Ranked by change from 65-day average*

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	% chg from 65-day avg	Latest Session Close	% chg	52-Week High	Low
AllianzIM US LC Bf10 Jan	JANT	858	**9785**	27.63	**0.69**	27.64	23.12
Patria Lat Amer Opp Acqn	PLAO	3,155	**6915**	10.65	**0.00**	11.05	9.99
Tigo Energy	TYGO	1,617	**4078**	21.52	**83.62**	27.00	7.65
Innov Buffer Step-Up	BSTP	214	**3885**	26.06	**0.66**	26.18	22.33
iShares Global Indls	EXI	803	**3603**	113.21	**1.35**	115.94	89.52
QuantaSing Group ADR	QSG	1,104	**3505**	10.06	**16.98**	28.99	6.66
iSh iBds Dec 2032 Corp	IBDX	1,453	**3179**	24.68	**0.29**	26.52	22.80
Knife River	KNF	7,437	**3011**	35.02	**-4.45**	41.00	33.67
Nuveen Enh 1-5Y Agg Bd	NUSA	382	**2842**	22.97	**0.17**	23.53	22.33
RMG Acquisition III Cl A	RMGC	143	**2539**	11.00	**8.70**	11.34	9.80

* Common stocks priced at $2 a share or more with an average volume over 65 trading days of at least 5,000 shares †Has traded fewer than 65 days

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CURRENCIES & COMMODITIES

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency	Thurs in US$	Thurs per US$	US$ vs, YTD chg (%)
Americas			
Argentina peso	.0042	240.2023	**35.9**
Brazil real	.1995	5.0132	**–5.1**
Canada dollar	.7435	1.3451	**–0.8**
Chile peso	.001248	801.50	**–5.5**
Colombia peso	.000228	4390.90	**–9.4**
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	**unch**
Mexico peso	.0570	17.5549	**–9.9**
Uruguay peso	.02578	38.7950	**–3.0**
Asia-Pacific			
Australia dollar	.6571	1.5218	**3.7**
China yuan	.1410	7.0945	**2.8**
Hong Kong dollar	.1277	7.8297	**0.3**
India rupee	.01215	82.283	**–0.6**
Indonesia rupiah	.0000671	14907	**–4.2**
Japan yen	.007205	138.79	**5.9**
Kazakhstan tenge	.002227	448.96	**–3.0**
Macau pataca	.1238	8.0750	**0.3**
Malaysia ringgit	.2168	4.6135	**4.7**
New Zealand dollar	.6072	1.6469	**4.6**
Pakistan rupee	.00350	285.450	**25.9**
Philippines peso	.0178	56.076	**0.7**
Singapore dollar	.7418	1.3481	**0.5**
South Korea won	.0007615	1313.26	**4.1**
Sri Lanka rupee	.0033911	294.89	**–19.8**
Taiwan dollar	.03261	30.669	**0.1**
Thailand baht	.02892	34.580	**–0.1**
Vietnam dong	.00004258	23487	**–0.6**
Europe			
Czech Rep. koruna	.04545	22.003	**–2.5**
Denmark krone	.1445	6.9203	**–0.4**
Euro area euro	1.0764	.9291	**–0.6**
Hungary forint	.002904	344.40	**–7.8**
Iceland krona	.007179	139.29	**–1.6**
Norway krone	.0905	11.0549	**12.7**
Poland zloty	.2381	4.1994	**–4.1**
Russia ruble	.01235	81.000	**9.8**
Sweden krona	.0925	10.8148	**3.6**
Switzerland franc	1.1042	.9056	**–2.1**
Turkey lira	.0481	20.8108	**11.3**
Ukraine hryvnia	.0271	36.9500	**0.3**
UK pound	1.2527	.7983	**–3.4**
Middle East/Africa			
Bahrain dinar	2.6525	.3770	**–0.01**
Egypt pound	.0324	30.8977	**24.8**
Israel shekel	.2671	3.7446	**6.2**
Kuwait dinar	3.2508	.3076	**0.5**
Oman sul rial	2.5974	.3850	**unch**
Qatar rial	.2745	3.644	**–0.7**
Saudi Arabia riyal	.2666	3.7504	**–0.2**
South Africa rand	.0509	19.6283	**15.3**

	Close	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
WSJ Dollar Index	97.45	–0.57	–0.58	**0.93**

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Commodities

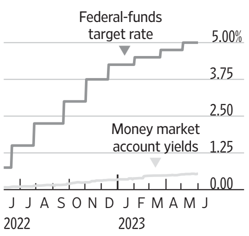
	Close	Thursday Net chg	Thursday % Chg	52-Week High	52-Week Low	52-Week % Chg	YTD % chg
DJ Commodity	**943.20**	12.61	**1.35**	1251.61	930.59	**-23.82**	-10.06
Refinitiv/CC CRB Index	**257.37**	3.52	**1.39**	329.59	253.85	**-20.34**	-7.34
Crude oil, $ per barrel	**70.10**	2.01	**2.95**	122.11	66.74	**-40.02**	-12.66
Natural gas, $/MMBtu	**2.158**	-0.108	**-4.77**	9.680	1.991	**-74.57**	-51.78
Gold, $ per troy oz.	**1978.00**	14.10	**0.72**	2048.00	1623.30	**5.97**	8.70

CREDIT MARKETS

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

U.S. consumer rates

A consumer rate against its benchmark over the past year



Selected rates

Money Market/Savings Accts

Bankrate.com avg†:	**0.54%**
CIT Bank	**4.85%**
Pasadena, CA	855-462-2652
Popular Direct	**4.85%**
Miami Lakes, FL	800-274-5696
MyBankingDirect	**5.00%**
Westbury, NY	516-683-4100
Varo Bank	**5.00%**
Draper, UT	877-377-8276
CFG Community Bank	**5.07%**
Baltimore, MD	888-205-8388

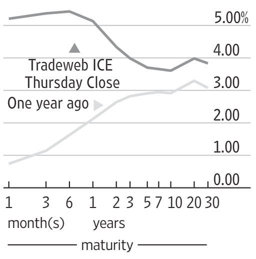
Interest rate	Yield/Rate (%) Last	Week ago	52-Week Range (%) Low	High	3-yr chg (pct pts)
Federal-funds rate target	**5.00-5.25**	5.00-5.25	0.75	5.25	**5.00**
Prime rate*	**8.25**	8.25	4.00	8.25	**5.00**
Libor, 3-month	**5.50**	5.46	1.63	5.52	**5.16**
Money market, annual yield	**0.54**	0.54	0.08	0.54	**0.25**
Five-year CD, annual yield	**2.84**	2.83	0.94	2.84	**2.03**
30-year mortgage, fixed†	**7.18**	7.26	5.26	7.41	**3.67**
15-year mortgage, fixed†	**6.61**	6.56	4.62	6.65	**3.75**
Jumbo mortgages, $726,200-plus†	**7.18**	7.31	5.19	7.44	**3.62**
Five-year adj mortgage (ARM)†	**6.03**	5.94	3.90	6.03	**2.80**
New-car loan, 48-month	**7.02**	7.03	4.45	7.03	**2.78**

Bankrate.com rates based on survey of over 4,800 online banks. *Base rate posted by 70% of the nation's largest banks.† Excludes closing costs.

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; Bankrate.com

Treasury yield curve

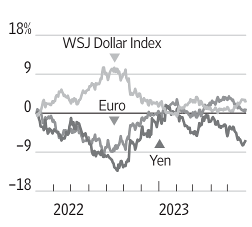
Yield to maturity of current bills, notes and bonds



Sources: Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close; Tullett Prebon; Dow Jones Market Data

Forex Race

Yen, euro vs. dollar; dollar vs. major U.S. trading partners



Corporate Borrowing Rates and Yields

Bond total return index	Close	Yield (%) Last	Week ago	52-Week High	Low	Total Return (%) 52-wk	3-yr
U.S. Treasury, Bloomberg	2144.810	**4.010**	4.220	4.560	2.840	**–1.703**	–4.397
U.S. Treasury Long, Bloomberg	3288.160	**3.930**	4.110	4.570	3.060	**–7.656**	–11.694
Aggregate, Bloomberg	2000.870	**4.560**	4.770	5.210	3.370	**–1.718**	–3.602
Fixed-Rate MBS, Bloomberg	1974.990	**4.620**	4.840	5.380	3.300	**–2.546**	–3.738
High Yield 100, ICE BofA	3246.994	**8.150**	8.257	8.753	6.596	**1.107**	2.705
Muni Master, ICE BofA	566.302	**3.362**	3.516	3.936	2.419	**0.625**	–0.742
EMBI Global, J.P. Morgan	783.199	**7.845**	7.996	9.159	6.869	**–0.627**	–2.449

Sources: J.P. Morgan; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; ICE Data Services

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

COMMODITIES

wsj.com/market-data/commodities

Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

	Open	Contract High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Copper-High (CMX)-25,000 lbs.; $ per lb.							
June	3.6835	3.7115		3.6790	**3.7065**	0.0755	1,416
July	3.6670	3.7315		3.6450	**3.7110**	0.0740	123,964
Gold (CMX)-100 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
June	1963.20	1983.00		1954.30	**1978.00**	14.10	11,092
July	1972.30	1991.40		1961.30	**1986.50**	13.40	2,906
Aug	1981.30	2000.70		1970.10	**1995.50**	13.40	373,618
Oct	2000.30	2019.50		1990.00	**2015.10**	13.40	11,379
Dec	2019.10	2039.00		2008.60	**2034.00**	13.60	36,171
Feb'24	2040.00	2058.00		2026.80	**2052.90**	14.00	6,089
Palladium (NYM) - 50 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
June	1356.00	1384.00		1346.50	**1375.90**	35.00	25
Sept	1361.00	1400.00		1357.00	**1390.70**	31.70	10,885
Platinum (NYM)-50 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
June	...				**1018.20**	11.10	75
July	998.70	1015.90		997.40	**1010.10**	11.10	57,848
Silver (CMX)-5,000 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
June		23.875			**23.875**	0.401	734
July	23.625	24.030		23.355	**23.987**	0.400	100,616
Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM)-1,000 bbls.; $ per bbl.							
July	67.60	71.07		67.51	**70.10**	2.01	378,664
Aug	67.81	71.14		67.67	**70.20**	1.96	220,971
Sept	67.67	70.95		67.58	**70.03**	1.89	224,399
Oct	67.43	70.64		67.39	**69.76**	1.84	192,103
Dec	66.91	69.94		66.81	**69.13**	1.79	221,282
Dec'24	64.08	66.53		64.08	**65.96**	1.43	112,324
NY Harbor ULSD (NYM)-42,000 gal.; $ per gal.							
July	2.2400	2.3358		2.2352	**2.3147**	.0638	91,267
Dec	2.2615	2.3393		2.2568	**2.3172**	.0483	41,691
Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM)-42,000 gal.; $ per gal.							
July	2.4273	2.4853		2.4016	**2.4362**	–.0076	105,899
Aug	2.3626	2.4205		2.3394	**2.3762**	.0006	51,935
Natural Gas (NYM)-10,000 MMBtu.; $ per MMBtu.							
July	2.255	2.283	▼	2.136	**2.158**	–.108	375,323
Aug	2.349	2.374	▼	2.244	**2.273**	–.085	108,940
Sept	2.351	2.374	▼	2.249	**2.277**	–.081	199,236
Oct	2.472	2.494	▼	2.377	**2.404**	–.074	110,873
Nov	2.909	2.930	▼	2.825	**2.867**	–.059	62,043
Jan'24	3.647	3.658	▼	3.570	**3.619**	–.043	78,846

Agriculture Futures

	Open	Contract High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Corn (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
July	594.00	606.00		591.75	**592.50**	–1.50	477,075
Dec	520.50	536.50		520.00	**530.00**	8.25	387,955
Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
July	339.50	344.00		337.75	**339.00**	...	2,454
Dec	353.00	353.00		347.00	**348.50**	–2.25	1,315
Soybeans (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
July	1299.75	1335.25		1299.25	**1329.50**	29.75	265,715
Nov	1145.50	1175.75		1144.25	**1169.00**	22.50	218,987
Soybean Meal (CBT)-100 tons; $ per ton.							
July	393.30	404.40		392.80	**401.40**	8.00	150,372
Dec	365.20	371.40		364.20	**369.10**	4.10	132,973
Soybean Oil (CBT)-60,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	46.33	48.02		46.16	**47.86**	1.66	168,526
Dec	46.20	47.54		46.13	**47.41**	1.26	147,732
Rough Rice (CBT)-2,000 cwt.; $ per cwt.							
July	17.17	17.65		17.16	**17.48**	.19	3,074
Sept	14.73	14.85		14.60	**14.79**	.07	4,759
Wheat (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
July	594.25	617.50		593.00	**610.75**	16.50	207,595
Sept	608.00	630.00		607.00	**624.25**	16.25	80,587
Wheat (KC)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
July	791.00	812.75		789.25	**802.50**	12.00	81,437
Sept	785.75	805.75		783.50	**797.50**	12.25	48,789
Cattle-Feeder (CME)-50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Aug	238.175	242.050	▲	236.575	**241.650**	2.475	35,776
Sept	241.125	245.350	▲	239.700	**244.950**	2.725	10,028
Cattle-Live (CME)-40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
June	169.350	175.000	▲	169.000	**174.900**	5.775	30,144
Aug	167.650	172.500	▲	167.325	**172.375**	4.700	154,891
Hogs-Lean (CME)-40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
June	83.025	84.025		82.150	**83.550**	.975	25,843
July	83.925	83.975		80.900	**82.050**	–1.275	69,158
Lumber (CME)-27,500 bd. ft., $ per 1,000 bd. ft.							
July	478.00	489.50	▼	478.00	**483.00**	4.50	5,083
Sept	504.50	508.00		504.50	**507.00**	2.00	1,454
Milk (CME)-200,000 lbs., cents per lb.							
June	15.35	15.68	▼	15.34	**15.63**	.22	5,744
July	16.10	16.59	▼	16.10	**16.56**	.41	5,921
Cocoa (ICE-US)-10 metric tons; $ per ton.							
July	3,017	3,047		3,002	**3,008**	1	112,770
Sept	3,025	3,056		3,017	**3,022**	3	92,419
Coffee (ICE-US)-37,500 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	179.65	184.70		179.50	**183.05**	4.40	68,794
Sept	176.65	181.80		176.65	**180.25**	4.40	65,079
Sugar-World (ICE-US)-112,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	25.10	25.40		24.74	**24.88**	–.18	349,771
Oct	24.83	25.09		24.46	**24.61**	–.13	265,299
Sugar-Domestic (ICE-US)-112,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	42.61	42.61		42.61	**42.61**	.11	441
Nov	41.90	41.90		41.50	**41.50**	–.01	1,477
Cotton (ICE-US)-50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	83.77	86.89		83.55	**86.42**	2.94	73,515
Dec	79.71	81.74		79.55	**81.58**	2.11	91,294
Orange Juice (ICE-US)-15,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
July	284.25	286.20		275.80	**283.55**	1.35	7,664
Sept	263.75	269.50		262.05	**269.20**	.65	1,341

Interest Rate Futures

	Open	Contract High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Ultra Treasury Bonds (CBT) - $100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	135-310	137-290		135-260	**137-030**	23.0	11,473
Sept	136-250	138-100		136-080	**137-150**	19.0	1,465,793
Treasury Bonds (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	128-020	129-160		127-190	**128-190**	17.0	39,096
Sept	128-100	129-160		127-260	**128-270**	16.0	1,228,357
Treasury Notes (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	113-200	114-130		113-070	**113-295**	9.5	48,846
Sept	114-120	115-000		114-010	**114-235**	8.5	4,650,136
5 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	108-147	108-307		108-062	**108-225**	7.7	50,426
Sept	109-010	109-155		108-250	**109-092**	6.7	4,796,847
2 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)-$200,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	102-087	102-138		102-055	**102-126**	3.9	39,826
Sept	102-285	103-028		102-247	**103-008**	3.6	3,166,366
30 Day Federal Funds (CBT)-$5,000,000; 100 - daily avg.							
June	94.8750	94.8850		94.8675	**94.8825**	.0075	265,821
July	94.8150	94.8500		94.8000	**94.8400**	.0200	355,223
10 Yr. Del. Int. Rate Swaps (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
June	96-300	97-055		96-150	**96-275**	5.5	7,520
Three-Month SOFR (CME)-$1,000,000; 100 - daily avg.							
March	95.0500	95.0500		95.0475	**95.0500**		999,760
June	94.7250	94.7700		94.7100	**94.7575**	.0375	1,363,116
Eurodollar (CME)-$1,000,000; pts of 100%							
June	94.4700	94.5050		94.4500	**94.4975**	.0350	546,908

Currency Futures

	Open	Contract High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Japanese Yen (CME)-¥12,500,000; $ per 100¥							
June	.7197	.7241		.7161	**.7219**	.0019	236,836
Sept	.7300	.7343		.7267	**.7323**	.0019	7,849
Canadian Dollar (CME)-CAD 100,000; $ per CAD							
June	.7370	.7446		.7364	**.7439**	.0070	173,361
Sept	.7384	.7460		.7380	**.7454**	.0069	6,684
British Pound (CME)-£62,500; $ per £							
June	1.2447	1.2545		1.2404	**1.2531**	.0103	218,751
Dec	1.2491	1.2558		1.2427	**1.2549**	.0101	9,098
Swiss Franc (CME)-CHF 125,000; $ per CHF							
June	1.1004	1.1065		1.0991	**1.1057**	.0059	42,736
Sept	1.1114	1.1174		1.1103	**1.1169**	.0059	722
Australian Dollar (CME)-AUD 100,000; $ per AUD							
June	.6508	.6586		.6488	**.6577**	.0079	205,748
Sept	.6532	.6606		.6510	**.6598**	.0079	3,046
Mexican Peso (CME)-MXN 500,000; $ per MXN							
June	.05634	.05682		.05622	**.05675**	.00041	221,226
Sept	.05536	.05582		.05524	**.05576**	.00041	2,384
Euro (CME)-€125,000; $ per €							
June	1.0701	1.0779		1.0672	**1.0772**	.0086	753,474
Sept	1.0754	1.0832		1.0726	**1.0825**	.0085	21,214

Index Futures

	Open	Contract High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Mini DJ Industrial Average (CBT)-$5 x index							
June	32910	33212		32737	**33103**	124	94,526
Sept	33199	33480		33026	**33379**	121	2,057
Mini S&P 500 (CME)-$50 x index							
June	4188.50	4239.75		4178.00	**4228.00**	37.50	2,386,838
Sept	4228.75	4281.50		4218.50	**4269.75**	37.50	54,711
Mini S&P Midcap 400 (CME)-$100 x index							
June	2408.50	2435.00		2398.20	**2429.50**	20.50	38,553
Sept					**2447.60**	19.70	10
Mini Nasdaq 100 (CME)-$20 x index							
June	14289.50	14528.25		14248.25	**14472.25**	171.75	289,677
Sept	14465.00	14699.00		14420.00	**14643.50**	173.25	8,958
Mini Russell 2000 (CME)-$50 x index							
June	1751.30	1777.20		1743.40	**1771.00**	19.20	529,680
Sept	1770.40	1793.20		1760.00	**1787.20**	19.00	5,434
Dec	1785.00	1805.20		1779.40	**1801.90**	18.10	106
Mini Russell 1000 (CME)-$50 x index							
June	2292.20	2318.30		2284.30	**2312.20**	21.80	7,531
U.S. Dollar Index (ICE-US)-$1,000 x index							
June	104.11	104.44		103.44	**103.50**	–.74	30,920
Sept	103.72	104.03		103.06	**103.11**	–.74	2,309

Source: FactSet

Cash Prices

Thursday, June 1, 2023

These prices reflect buying and selling of a variety of actual or "physical" commodities in the marketplace—separate from the futures price on an exchange, which reflects what the commodity might be worth in future months.

	Thursday
Energy	
Coal,C.Aplc.,12500Btu,1.2SO2-r,w	**74.600**
Coal,PwdrRvrBsn,8800Btu,0.8SO2-r,w	**14.600**
Metals	
Gold, per troy oz	
Engelhard industrial	**1971.00**
Handy & Harman base	**1974.35**
Handy & Harman fabricated	**2191.53**
LBMA Gold Price AM	*1959.00
LBMA Gold Price PM	*1964.40
Krugerrand,wholesale-e	**2067.85**
Maple Leaf-e	**2117.32**
American Eagle-e	**2117.32**
Mexican peso-e	**2552.85**
Austria crown-e	**1942.62**
Austria phil-e	**2077.74**
Silver, troy oz.	
Engelhard industrial	**23.6500**
Handy & Harman base	**23.9130**
Handy & Harman fabricated	**29.8910**
LBMA spot price	*£18.8100
(U.S.$ equivalent)	*23.2550
Coins,wholesale $1,000 face-a	**22210**
Other metals	
LBMA Platinum Price PM	*1003.0
Platinum,Engelhard industrial	**1010.0**
Palladium,Engelhard industrial	**1385.0**
Aluminum, LME, $ per metric ton	*2255.0
Copper,Comex spot	**3.7065**
Iron Ore, 62% Fe CFR China-s	**n.a.**
Shredded Scrap, US Midwest-s,m	**n.a.**
Steel, HRC USA, FOB Midwest Mill-s	**n.a.**
Battery/EV metals	
BMI Lithium Carbonate, EXW China, =99.2%-v,w	**42100**
BMI Lithium Hydroxide, EXW China, =56.5% -v,w	**41100**
BMI Cobalt sulphate, EXW China, >20.5% -v,m	**5041**
BMI Nickel Sulphate, EXW China, >22%-v,m	**4512**
BMI Flake Graphite, FOB China, -100 Mesh, 94-95% -v,m	**688**
Fibers and Textiles	
Burlap,10-oz,40-inch NY yd-n,w	**0.7500**
Cotton,1 1/16 std lw-mdMphs-u	**0.8467**
Cotlook 'A' Index-t	*94.15
Hides,hvy native steers piece fob-u	**n.a.**
Wool,64s,staple,Terr del-u,w	**n.a.**
Grains and Feeds	
Barley,top-quality Mnpls-u	**n.a.**
Bran,wheat middlings, KC-u,w	**133**
Corn,No. 2 yellow,Cent IL-bp,u	**6.1100**
Corn gluten feed,Midwest-u,w	**164.4**
Corn gluten meal,Midwest-u,w	**545.7**
Cottonseed meal-u,w	**363**
Hominy feed,Cent IL-u,w	**185**
Meat-bonemeal,50% pro Mnpls-u,w	**455**
Oats,No.2 milling,Mnpls-u	**3.8900**
Rice, Long Grain Milled, No. 2 AR-u,w	**37.25**
Sorghum,(Milo) No.2 Gulf-u	**n.a.**
SoybeanMeal,Cent IL,rail,ton48%-u,w	**408.20**
Soybeans,No.1 yllw IL-bp,u	**13.3600**
Wheat,Spring14%-pro Mnpls-u	**9.6150**
Wheat,No.2 soft red,St.Louis-u	**6.1175**
Wheat - Hard - KC (USDA) $ per bu-u	**8.6750**
Wheat,No.1soft white,Portld,OR-u	**7.0750**
Food	
Beef,carcass equiv. index	
choice 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u	**281.74**
select 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u	**263.09**
Broilers, National comp wtd. avg.-u,w	**1.4304**
Butter,AA Chicago-d	**2.4650**
Cheddar cheese,bbl,Chicago-d	**151.00**
Cheddar cheese,blk,Chicago-d	**150.25**
Milk,Nonfat dry,Chicago lb.-d	**117.00**
Coffee,Brazilian,Comp-y	**1.7819**
Coffee,Colombian, NY-y	**2.1684**
Eggs,large white,Chicago-u	**1.1150**
Flour,hard winter KC-p	**21.65**
Hams,17-20 lbs,Mid-US fob-u	**n.a.**
Hogs,Iowa-So. Minnesota-u	**80.57**
Pork bellies,12-14 lb MidUS-u	**1.0960**
Pork loins,13-19 lb MidUS-u	**1.0980**
Steers,Tex.-Okla. Choice-u	**n.a.**
Steers,feeder,Okla. City-u,w	**n.a.**
Fats and Oils	
Degummed corn oil, crude wtd. avg.-u,w	**n.a.**
Grease,choice white,Chicago-h	**0.5400**
Lard,Chicago-u	**n.a.**
Soybean oil,crude;Centl IL-u,w	**0.5157**
Tallow,bleach;Chicago-h	**0.5675**
Tallow,edible,Chicago-u	**n.a.**

KEY TO CODES: A=ask; B=bid; BP=country elevator bids to producers; C=corrected; D=CME; E=Manfra,Tordella & Brookes; H=American Commodities Brokerage Co; K=bi-weekly; M=monthly; N=nominal; n.a.=not quoted or not available; P=Sosland Publishing; R=SNL Energy; S=Platts-TSI; T=Cotlook Limited; U=USDA; V=Benchmark Mineral Intelligence; W=weekly; Y=International Coffee Organization; Z=not quoted. *Data as of 5/31

Source: Dow Jones Market Data

Bonds | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Tracking Bond Benchmarks

Return on investment and spreads over Treasurys and/or yields paid to investors compared with 52-week highs and lows for different types of bonds

Total return close	YTD total return (%)	Index	Yield (%) Latest	Low	High
Broad Market Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
2000.87	**2.5**	U.S. Aggregate	**4.560**	3.370	5.210
U.S. Corporate Indexes Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
2959.41	**3.1**	U.S. Corporate	**5.330**	4.280	6.130
2861.51	**2.7**	Intermediate	**5.240**	4.000	6.050
3936.72	**3.7**	Long term	**5.490**	4.690	6.370
576.21	**3.3**	Double-A-rated	**4.640**	3.630	5.320
785.53	**3.2**	Triple-B-rated	**5.630**	4.590	6.440
High Yield Bonds ICE BofA					
482.12	**4.1**	High Yield Constrained	**8.767**	7.165	9.623
448.45	**6.7**	Triple-C-rated	**14.642**	12.696	16.916
3246.99	**4.3**	High Yield 100	**8.150**	6.596	8.753
419.71	**3.4**	Global High Yield Constrained	**8.871**	7.267	9.945
320.77	**3.8**	Europe High Yield Constrained	**7.456**	5.585	8.508
U.S Agency Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
1730.02	**2.3**	U.S Agency	**4.540**	2.960	5.080
1528.92	**2.1**	10-20 years	**4.540**	2.900	5.100
3356.69	**5.2**	20-plus years	**4.530**	3.600	5.240
2614.25	**3.1**	Yankee	**5.050**	3.910	5.840
Mortgage-Backed Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
1974.99	**2.0**	Mortgage-Backed	**4.620**	3.300	5.380
1909.46	**0.3**	Ginnie Mae (GNMA)	**4.680**	3.320	5.370
1168.59	**2.5**	Fannie mae (FNMA)	**4.590**	3.300	5.390
1787.78	**2.3**	Freddie Mac (FHLMC)	**4.670**	3.300	5.370
566.30	**1.8**	Muni Master	**3.362**	2.419	3.936
403.98	**1.5**	7-12 year	**3.008**	2.325	3.794
455.37	**2.8**	12-22 year	**3.699**	2.991	4.428
428.64	**4.0**	22-plus year	**4.340**	3.684	5.131
Global Government J.P. Morgan†					
n.a.	**n.a.**	Global Government	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	Canada	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	EMU§	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	France	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	Germany	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	Japan	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	Netherlands	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
n.a.	**n.a.**	U.K.	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.
783.20	**1.9**	Emerging Markets **	**7.845**	6.869	9.159

*Constrained indexes limit individual issuer concentrations to 2%; the High Yield 100 are the 100 largest bonds † In local currency § Euro-zone bonds

** EMBI Global Index

Sources: ICE Data Services; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; J.P.Morgan

Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasurys on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose(▲) or fell (▼) in the latest session

Coupon (%)	Country/ Maturity, in years	Yield (%) Latest	Previous	Month ago	Year ago	Spread Under/Over U.S. Treasurys, in basis points Latest	Prev	Year ago
4.250	**U.S.** 2	**4.339** ▼	4.388	4.137	2.664			
3.375	10	**3.607** ▼	3.636	3.573	2.930			
3.250	**Australia** 2	**3.597** ▲	3.564	3.066	2.545	**-73.9**	-84.7	**-11.7**
4.500	10	**3.626** ▲	3.614	3.366	3.420	**1.7**	-3.3	**50.6**
0.000	**France** 2	**2.895** ▼	2.900	2.892	0.404	**-144.2**	-151.1	**-225.8**
3.000	10	**2.813** ▼	2.844	2.895	1.699	**-79.7**	-80.4	**-121.5**
2.800	**Germany** 2	**2.709** ▼	2.713	2.703	0.551	**-162**	-169.9	**-211.1**
2.300	10	**2.249** ▼	2.284	2.313	1.188	**-136.0**	-136.3	**-172.6**
3.400	**Italy** 2	**3.407** ▼	3.444	3.340	1.069	**-92.9**	-96.7	**-159.3**
4.400	10	**3.997** ▼	4.081	4.182	3.193	**38.8**	43.3	**27.9**
0.005	**Japan** 2	**-0.063** ▼	-0.056	-0.042	-0.068	**-440.0**	-446.7	**-273.0**
0.500	10	**0.420** ▼	0.433	0.403	0.236	**-318.9**	-321.5	**-267.8**
0.000	**Spain** 2	**3.021** ▼	3.039	3.007	0.757	**-131.6**	-137.2	**-190.5**
3.150	10	**3.308** ▼	3.347	3.370	2.278	**-30.1**	-30.1	**-63.6**
0.625	**U.K.** 2	**4.274** ▼	4.333	3.782	1.677	**-6.3**	-7.8	**-98.5**
4.250	10	**4.113** ▼	4.181	3.718	2.160	**50.4**	53.4	**-75.5**

Source: Tullett Prebon, Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close

Corporate Debt

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific expectations

Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Spread*, in basis points Current	One-day change	Last week
Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel	**BFCM**	1.604	**5.13**	Oct. 4, '26	**113**	–18	81
Nutrien	**NTRCN**	5.625	**5.80**	Dec. 1, '40	**182**	–9	n.a.
Eaton	**ETN**	4.150	**5.08**	Nov. 2, '42	**110**	–8	n.a.
AbbVie	**ABBV**	4.400	**5.33**	Nov. 6, '42	**135**	–7	n.a.
Bank of America	**BAC**	6.110	**5.56**	Jan. 29, '37	**195**	–7	204
Citigroup	**C**	4.600	**5.47**	March 9, '26	**149**	–7	n.a.
Credit Suisse	**CS**	4.550	**6.61**	April 17, '26	**262**	–7	263
Ally Financial	**ALLY**	8.000	**7.21**	Nov. 1, '31	**360**	–6	375

...And spreads that widened the most

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
John Deere Capital	...	3.400	**4.71**	June 6, '25	**37**	12	27
3M	**MMM**	5.700	**5.59**	March 15, '37	**200**	12	n.a.
Southern Coumpany	**SO**	5.150	**5.07**	Oct. 6, '25	**72**	11	n.a.
HSBC Holdings	**HSBC**	3.900	**5.18**	May 25, '26	**120**	9	127
Intesa Sanpaolo	**ISPIM**	7.000	**5.98**	Nov. 21, '25	**164**	9	190
PG&E	**PCG**	4.950	**5.89**	June 8, '25	**154**	9	n.a.
Caterpillar Financial Services	...	3.600	**4.40**	Aug. 12, '27	**69**	8	68
Citigroup	**C**	3.400	**4.95**	May 1, '26	**94**	7	102

High-yield issues with the biggest price increases...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Bond Price as % of face value Current	One-day change	Last week
Dish DBS	...	5.125	**21.24**	June 1, '29	**46.772**	1.32	41.958
Embarq	**EMBARQ**	7.995	**17.71**	June 1, '36	**51.185**	1.22	49.540
Ford Motor	**F**	4.750	**7.12**	Jan. 15, '43	**75.125**	1.13	73.480
Lumen Technologies	**LUMN**	7.600	**22.28**	Sept. 15, '39	**36.177**	0.96	n.a.
Occidental Petroleum	**OXY**	6.450	**6.16**	Sept. 15, '36	**102.587**	0.93	101.250
Teva Pharmaceutical Finance Netherlands	...	3.150	**6.45**	Oct. 1, '26	**90.280**	0.88	88.750
Deutsche Bank	**DB**	4.500	**7.90**	April 1, '25	**94.318**	0.85	93.250
Royal Caribbean	**RCL**	7.500	**7.78**	Oct. 15, '27	**98.957**	0.68	n.a.

...And with the biggest price decreases

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
Transocean	**RIG**	7.500	**12.83**	April 15, '31	**74.073**	–1.54	76.000
Telecom Italia Capital	**TITIM**	6.000	**8.32**	Sept. 30, '34	**83.200**	–1.06	84.767
Bausch Health	**BHCCN**	11.000	**18.67**	Sept. 30, '28	**74.750**	–0.88	75.688
QVC	**QVCN**	4.850	**11.37**	April 1, '24	**95.000**	–0.40	94.270
Liberty Mutual	**LIBMUT**	7.800	**7.36**	March 15, '37	**103.750**	–0.25	n.a.
XPO	**XPO**	6.700	**7.41**	May 1, '34	**94.750**	–0.20	94.625
CSC Holdings	**CSCHLD**	5.250	**13.31**	June 1, '24	**92.750**	–0.18	92.000
Howmet Aerospace	**HWM**	5.900	**5.40**	Feb. 1, '27	**101.625**	–0.16	102.115

*Estimated spread over 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year or 30-year hot-run Treasury; 100 basis points=one percentage pt.; change in spread shown is for Z-spread.
Note: Data are for the most active issue of bonds with maturities of two years or more

Source: MarketAxess

Macro & Market Economics

Watching the Gauges: U.S. Supply and Demand

Inventories, imports and demand for the week ended May 26. Current figures are in thousands of barrels or thousands of gallons per day, except natural-gas figures, which are in billions of cubic feet. Natural-gas import and demand data are available monthly only.

Inventories, 000s barrels / Imports, 000s barrels per day

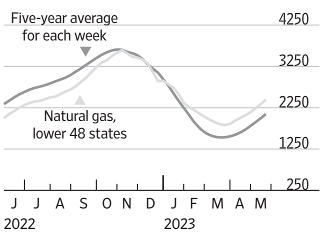
	Inventories: Current	Expected change	Previous week	Year ago	4-week avg	5-year avg	Imports: Current	Expected change	Previous week	Year ago	4-week avg	5-year avg
Crude oil and petroleum prod	1,242,914	...	1,232	1,155	1,238	1,283	9,313	...	7,864	8,970	8,417	9,594
Crude oil excluding SPR	459,657	-1,400	455	415	461	469	7,217	...	5,850	6,218	6,370	7,073
Gasoline	216,070	...	216	219	218	238	833	...	763	890	823	876
Finished gasoline	16,901	-900	16	18	16	22	178	...	115	52	147	101
Reformulated	18	...	0	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
Conventional	16,883	...	16	18	16	22	178	...	115	52	147	101
Blend. components	199,169	...	200	201	202	216	655	...	649	838	677	775
Natural gas (bcf)	2,336	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kerosene-type jet fuel	41,441	...	43	40	41	41	159	...	132	250	131	123
Distillates	106,657	500	106	106	106	133	199	...	156	263	149	163
Heating oil	7,099	...	8	9	8	9	0	...	0	1	0	3
Diesel	99,558	...	97	97	98	62	199	...	156	262	149	150
Residual fuel oil	33,086	...	33	27	33	32	30	...	100	348	90	281
Other oils	293,003	...	290	276	290	291	804	...	774	929	775	962
Net crude, petroleum products, incl. SPR	1,598,350	...	1,590	1,681	1,597	1,903	-1,881	...	-2,236	-1,407	-1,917	1,955

Weekly Demand, 000s barrels per day

	Current	Expected change	Previous week	Year ago	4-week avg	5-year avg
Total petroleum product	19,442	...	20,701	19,512	19,966	19,685
Finished motor gasoline	9,098	...	9,437	8,977	9,187	9,067
Kerosene-type jet fuel	1,780	...	1,430	1,716	1,626	1,296
Distillates	3,646	...	4,198	3,969	3,904	3,827
Residual fuel oil	67	...	108	436	195	312
Propane/propylene	687	...	818	621	644	...
Other oils	4,164	...	4,710	3,794	4,411	...

Natural gas storage

Billions of cubic feet; weekly totals



Note: Expected changes are provided by Dow Jones Newswires' survey of analysts. Previous and average inventory data are in millions.
Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; U.S. Energy Information Administration; Dow Jones Newswires

Exchange-Traded Portfolios | WSJ.com/ETFresearch

Largest 100 exchange-traded funds, latest session

Thursday, June 1, 2023

ETF	Symbol	Closing Price	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
CnsmrDiscSelSector	**XLY**	153.40	**1.18**	18.8
CnsStapleSelSector	**XLP**	72.61	**–0.08**	–2.6
DimenUSCoreEq2	**DFAC**	25.54	**0.87**	5.2
EnSelSectorSPDR	**XLE**	77.54	**1.24**	–11.4
FinSelSectorSPDR	**XLF**	32.10	**1.07**	–6.1
HealthCareSelSect	**XLV**	128.67	**0.66**	–5.3
InvscQQQI	**QQQ**	352.01	**1.16**	32.2
InvscS&P500EW	**RSP**	140.66	**0.75**	–0.4
iShCoreDivGrowth	**DGRO**	49.37	**0.57**	–1.3
iShCoreMSCIEAFE	**IEFA**	67.00	**1.47**	8.7
iShCoreMSCIEM	**IEMG**	48.40	**1.72**	3.6
iShCoreMSCITotInt	**IXUS**	61.83	**1.56**	6.8
iShCoreS&P500	**IVV**	423.75	**1.03**	10.3
iShCoreS&P MC	**IJH**	242.12	**0.79**	0.1
iShCoreS&P SC	**IJR**	93.22	**0.85**	–1.5
iShCoreS&PTotUS	**ITOT**	92.78	**0.98**	9.4
iShCoreTotalUSDBd	**IUSB**	45.62	**0.30**	1.5
iShCoreUSAggBd	**AGG**	98.61	**0.30**	1.7
iShESGAwareUSA	**ESGU**	92.84	**0.98**	9.5
iShEdgeMSCIMinUSA	**USMV**	71.68	**0.34**	–0.6
iShEdgeMSCIUSAQual	**QUAL**	128.23	**0.89**	12.5
iShGoldTr	**IAU**	37.49	**0.78**	8.4
iShiBoxx$HYCpBd	**HYG**	74.20	**0.60**	0.8
iShiBoxx$InvGrCpBd	**LQD**	107.60	**0.31**	2.1
iShJPMUSDEmBd	**EMB**	84.99	**0.67**	0.5
iShMBS	**MBB**	93.88	**0.18**	1.2
iShMSCIACWI	**ACWI**	92.71	**1.19**	9.2
iShMSCI EAFE	**EFA**	71.72	**1.49**	9.3
iSh MSCI EM	**EEM**	38.87	**1.78**	2.6
iShMSCIEAFEValue	**EFV**	48.33	**1.53**	5.3
iShNatlMuniBd	**MUB**	106.24	**0.09**	0.7
iSh1-5YIGCorpBd	**IGSB**	50.31	**0.21**	1.0
iSh1-3YTreaBd	**SHY**	81.61	**0.16**	0.5
iShRussMC	**IWR**	68.15	**0.81**	1.0
iShRuss1000	**IWB**	231.30	**0.98**	9.9
iShRuss1000Grw	**IWF**	261.32	**1.13**	22.0
iShRuss1000Val	**IWD**	149.80	**0.79**	–1.2
iShRussell2000	**IWM**	175.65	**1.08**	0.7
iShS&P500Grw	**IVW**	67.18	**1.05**	14.8
iShS&P500Value	**IVE**	152.73	**0.81**	5.3
iShSelectDiv	**DVY**	108.98	**0.44**	–9.6
iSh7-10YTreaBd	**IEF**	98.10	**0.28**	2.4
iShShortTreaBd	**SHV**	110.00	**0.07**	0.1
iShTIPSBondETF	**TIP**	108.16	**0.16**	1.6
iSh20+YTreaBd	**TLT**	103.12	**0.39**	3.6
iShUSTreasuryBd	**GOVT**	23.14	**0.24**	1.8
JPMEquityPrem	**JEPI**	53.92	**0.49**	–1.0
JPM UltShIncm	**JPST**	50.05	**0.04**	–0.2
ProShUltPrQQQ	**TQQQ**	36.01	**3.63**	108.2
SPDRBbg1-3MTB	**BIL**	91.45	**0.06**	–0.0
SPDR DJIA Tr	**DIA**	330.94	**0.43**	–0.1
SPDR Gold	**GLD**	183.76	**0.79**	8.3
SPDRPtfDevxUS	**SPDW**	32.19	**1.55**	8.4
SPDRS&P500Value	**SPYV**	40.96	**0.76**	5.3
SPDRPtfS&P500	**SPLG**	49.58	**0.90**	10.2
SPDRS&P500Growth	**SPYG**	58.20	**1.06**	14.9
SPDR S&P 500	**SPY**	421.82	**0.95**	10.3
SchwabIntEquity	**SCHF**	34.99	**1.48**	8.6
SchwabSrtTRmUSTrsr	**SCHO**	48.36	**0.11**	0.2
SchwabUS BrdMkt	**SCHB**	49.07	**0.95**	9.5
SchwabUS Div	**SCHD**	69.87	**0.40**	–7.5
SchwabUS LC	**SCHX**	49.78	**0.99**	10.3
SchwabUS LC Grw	**SCHG**	71.24	**1.37**	28.2
SPDR S&PMdCpTr	**MDY**	443.97	**0.87**	0.3
SPDR S&P Div	**SDY**	118.02	**0.61**	–5.7
TechSelectSector	**XLK**	165.95	**1.02**	33.4
UtilitiesSelSector	**XLU**	64.45	**–0.74**	–8.6
VangdInfoTech	**VGT**	421.18	**1.03**	31.9
VangdSC Val	**VBR**	153.04	**0.78**	–3.6
VangdExtMkt	**VXF**	139.29	**1.06**	4.8
VangdDivApp	**VIG**	154.50	**0.82**	1.7
VangdFTSEAWxUS	**VEU**	53.45	**1.58**	6.6
VangdFTSEDevMk	**VEA**	45.32	**1.55**	8.0
VangdFTSE EM	**VWO**	39.72	**1.72**	1.9
VangdFTSE Europe	**VGK**	60.93	**1.18**	9.9
VangdGrowth	**VUG**	268.30	**1.22**	25.9
VangdHlthCr	**VHT**	237.78	**0.81**	–4.1
VangdHiDiv	**VYM**	101.87	**0.50**	–5.9
VangdIntermBd	**BIV**	76.03	**0.29**	2.3
VangdIntrCorpBd	**VCIT**	79.25	**0.29**	2.2
VangdIntermTrea	**VGIT**	59.53	**0.25**	1.8
VangdLC	**VV**	192.87	**1.03**	10.7
VangdMC	**VO**	205.64	**0.91**	0.9
VangdMC Val	**VOE**	128.87	**0.74**	–4.7
VangdMBS	**VMBS**	46.18	**0.21**	1.4
VangdRealEst	**VNQ**	80.01	**0.01**	–3.0
VangdS&P500ETF	**VOO**	387.57	**0.96**	10.3
VangdST Bond	**BSV**	76.13	**0.18**	1.1
VangdSTCpBd	**VCSH**	75.90	**0.19**	0.9
VangdShtTmInfltn	**VTIP**	47.59	**0.13**	1.9
VangdShortTrea	**VGSH**	58.11	**0.18**	0.5
VangdSC	**VB**	185.42	**0.98**	1.0
VangdTaxExemptBd	**VTEB**	49.89	**0.01**	0.8
VangdTotalBd	**BND**	73.05	**0.27**	1.7
VangdTotIntlBd	**BNDX**	48.93	**0.11**	3.2
VangdTotIntlStk	**VXUS**	55.13	**1.57**	6.6
VangdTotalStk	**VTI**	209.25	**1.00**	9.4
VangdTotWrldStk	**VT**	93.42	**1.25**	8.4
VangdValue	**VTV**	135.66	**0.66**	–3.4
WisdTrFRTrea	**USFR**	50.34	**0.02**	0.1

BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables

The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are composite quotations that include primary market trades as well as trades reported by Nasdaq BX (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, Cboe, NYSE National and Nasdaq ISE.

The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization.

Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.

Boldfaced quotations highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more if their previous closing price was $2 or higher.

Footnotes:
- i-New 52-week high.
- ↓-New 52-week low.
- dd-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.
- FD-First day of trading.
- h-Does not meet continued listing standards
- lf-Late filing
- q-Temporary exemption from Nasdaq requirements.
- t-NYSE bankruptcy
- v-Trading halted on primary market.
- vj-In bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Code, or securities assumed by such companies.

Wall Street Journal stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day.

Thursday, June 1, 2023

A B C

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
AECOM	ACM	77.55	-0.50
AES	AES	19.88	0.14
Aflac	AFL	64.69	0.48
AGCO	AGCO	111.61	1.33
AMC Ent	AMC	4.55	0.05
Ansys	ANSS	323.24	-0.35
APA	APA	32.04	0.26
ASE Tech	ASX	7.84	0.22
ASML	ASML	726.77	3.84
AT&T	T	15.81	0.08
AbbottLabs	ABT	102.82	0.82
AbbVie	ABBV	133.44	-4.57
AcadiaHealthcare	ACHC	70.87	0.24
Accenture	ACN	305.20	-0.72
ActivisionBliz	ATVI	80.20	...
Adobe	ADBE	426.75	8.96
AdvDrainageSys	WMS	97.67	0.90
AdvMicroDevices	AMD	119.47	1.26
Aegon	AEG	4.49	0.16
AerCap	AER	58.12	1.04
AgilentTechs	A	116.26	0.59
agilon health	AGL	19.27	-0.61
AgnicoEagleMines	AEM	52.35	1.57
AirProducts	APD	273.17	4.03
Airbnb	ABNB	112.16	2.39
AkamaiTech	AKAM	91.45	-0.67
Albemarle	ALB	195.54	2.01
Albertsons	ACI	20.19	-0.12
Alcon	ALC	78.62	1.23
AlexandriaREstate	ARE	112.37	-1.09
Alibaba	BABA	83.00	3.45
AlignTech	ALGN	297.20	14.54
Allegion	ALLE	104.76	0.95
AllegroMicro	ALGM	39.49	0.16
AlliantEnergy	LNT	50.91	-0.55
Allstate	ALL	109.20	1.64
AllyFinancial	ALLY	27.12	0.45
AlnylamPharm	ALNY	188.67	3.66
Alphabet C	GOOG	124.37	1.00
Alphabet A	GOOGL	123.72	0.85
Altria	MO	44.58	0.16
Amazon.com	AMZN	122.77	2.19
Ambev	ABEV	2.82	0.03
Amcor	AMCR	9.72	0.08
Amdocs	DOX	94.53	0.36
Ameren	AEE	80.36	-0.71
AmericaMovil	AMX	21.66	0.40
AmerAirlines	AAL	14.70	-0.08
AEP	AEP	82.02	-1.10
AmerExpress	AXP	162.72	4.16
AmericanFin	AFG	112.75	0.48
AmHomes4Rent	AMH	34.73	0.45
AIG	AIG	53.74	0.91
AmerTowerREIT	AMT	187.01	2.64
AmerWaterWorks	AWK	143.57	-0.88
AmericoldRealty	COLD	29.21	-0.09
Ameriprise	AMP	303.73	5.26
AmerisourceBrgn	ABC	172.59	2.44
Ametek	AME	146.95	1.88
Amgen	AMGN	214.27	-6.38
Amphenol	APH	75.82	0.37
AnalogDevices	ADI	180.41	2.72
AngloGoldAsh	AU	24.80	0.60
AB InBev	BUD	53.81	0.41
AnnalyCap	NLY	19.43	0.55
Aon	AON	312.03	3.74
ApellisPharm	APLS	87.31	1.46
ApolloGlbMgmt	APO	68.07	1.15
Apple	AAPL	180.09	2.84
ApplMaterials	AMAT	134.83	1.53
Applovin	APP	24.83	-0.18
Aptargroup	ATR	113.60	0.81
Aptiv	APTV	90.21	2.13
Aramark	ARMK	39.05	-0.43
ArcelorMittal	MT	25.56	0.61
ArchCapital	ACGL	69.67	-0.03
ADM	ADM	70.55	-0.10
AresMgmt	ARES	88.00	0.91
argenx	ARGX	394.66	5.96
AristaNetworks	ANET	166.68	0.34
ArrowElec	ARW	126.12	-0.52
AspenTech	AZPN	164.96	1.04
Assurant	AIZ	120.90	0.91
AstraZeneca	AZN	72.44	-0.24
Atlassian	TEAM	177.26	-3.53
AtmosEnergy	ATO	112.07	-3.21
Autodesk	ADSK	203.30	3.91
Autoliv	ALV	81.93	0.43
ADP	ADP	211.27	2.27
AutoZone	AZO	2373.50	-13.26
Avalonbay	AVB	176.69	2.71
Avangrid	AGR	37.32	-0.21
Avantor	AVTR	19.90	-0.04
AveryDennison	AVY	159.24	-1.89
AvisBudget	CAR	169.60	1.81
AxaltaCoating	AXTA	30.02	1.01
AxonEnterprise	AXON	192.14	-0.77
BCE	BCE	45.43	0.33
BHP Group	BHP	56.39	1.49
BILL	BILL	103.05	1.81
BJ'sWholesale	BJ	62.18	-0.47
BP	BP	34.72	1.01
Baidu	BIDU	130.79	7.94
BakerHughes	BKR	28.61	1.36
Ball	BALL	51.63	0.47
BancoBilbaoViz	BBVA	6.74	0.22
BancoBradesco	BBDO	2.56	-0.04
BancodeChile	BCH	20.80	0.60
BanSanBrasil	BSBR	5.82	0.09
BcoSantChile	BSAC	17.78	0.41
BancoSantander	SAN	3.30	0.09
BancoMacro/BanColombia	BAC	27.78	0.21
BankofAmerica	BAC	27.78	0.21
BankofMontreal	BMO	84.43	1.02
BankNY Mellon	BK	41.25	1.05
BankNovaScotia	BNS	48.51	0.21
Barclays	BCS	7.65	0.13
BarrickGold	GOLD	17.45	0.57
Bath&BodyWks	BBWI	36.15	1.11
Bausch+Lomb	BLCO	18.25	0.39
BaxterIntl	BAX	41.30	0.52
BectonDickinson	BDX	248.16	0.17
BeiGene	BGNE	223.48	2.55
BentleySystems	BSY	49.39	0.61
Berkley	WRB	56.91	1.23
BerkHathwy A	BRK.A	492000	9763.03
BerkHathwy B	BRK.B	323.12	2.94
BerryGlobal	BERY	57.82	0.61
BestBuy	BBY	72.90	0.23
Bilibili	BILI	15.87	0.21
Bio-Techne	TECH	81.69	-0.10
Bio-RadLab A	BIO	371.36	-1.99
Biogen	BIIB	302.41	6.00
BioMarinPharm	BMRN	88.26	1.32
BioNTech	BNTX	104.12	-0.96
BlackKnight	BKI	56.55	-1.23
BlackRock	BLK	668.84	11.29
Blackstone	BX	87.14	1.50
Block	SQ	61.50	1.11
BlueOwlCapital	OWL	10.20	-0.05
Boeing	BA	207.96	2.26
Booking	BKNG	2550.00	41.23
BoozAllen	BAH	100.76	0.18
BorgWarner	BWA	45.27	0.94
BostonProps	BXP	48.05	-0.62
BostonSci	BSX	51.50	-0.02
BoydGaming	BYD	64.33	0.60
BristolMyers	BMY	64.68	0.24
BritishAmTob	BTI	31.90	0.19
Broadcom	AVGO	789.95	-18.01
BroadridgeFinl	BR	149.00	2.28
BrookfieldAsset	BAM	30.80	0.28
Brookfield	BN	30.51	0.47
BrookfieldInfr	BIP	36.14	0.25
BrookfieldRenew	BEPC	34.41	0.83
Brown&Brown	BRO	62.75	0.42
Brown-Forman A	BF.A	63.17	0.32
Brown-Forman B	BF.B	61.81	0.04
Bruker	BRKR	70.94	1.84
BuildersFirst	BLDR	115.86	-0.09
Bunge	BG	91.02	-1.62
BurlingtonStrs	BURL	144.30	-6.16
CACI Intl	CACI	300.96	1.74
CBRE Group	CBRE	75.02	0.10
CCC Intelligent	CCCS	11.15	0.21
CDW	CDW	173.28	1.59
CF Industries	CF	60.24	-1.27
CGI A	GIB	103.81	0.42
CH Robinson	CHRW	94.87	0.94
CME Group	CME	180.02	1.27
CMS Energy	CMS	57.44	-0.54
CNA Fin	CNA	36.92	0.06
CNH Indl	CNHI	13.14	0.31
CRH	CRH	48.29	0.75
CSX	CSX	31.38	0.71
CVS Health	CVS	68.88	0.85
CadenceDesign	CDNS	232.39	1.48
CAE	CAE	20.64	0.16
CaesarsEnt	CZR	41.66	0.65
CamdenProperty	CPT	104.62	0.15
Cameco	CCJ	30.30	2.46
CampbellSoup	CPB	50.65	0.20
CIBC	CM	41.20	-0.01
CanNtlRlwy	CNI	115.06	2.33
CanadianNatRscs	CNQ	54.88	1.00
CdnPacKC	CP	76.28	0.08
CapitalOne	COF	106.24	2.03
CardinalHealth	CAH	83.42	1.12
Carlisle	CSL	216.50	4.06
Carlyle	CG	28.09	0.68
CarMax	KMX	71.81	-0.40
Carnival	CCL	11.85	0.62
Carnival	CUK	10.50	0.53
CarrierGlobal	CARR	41.50	0.60
CaseysGenStores	CASY	225.78	4.49
Catalent	CTLT	37.00	-0.23
Caterpillar	CAT	209.07	3.32
Celanese	CE	106.10	2.08
CelsiusHldg	CELH	133.29	7.76
Cemex	CX	6.07	0.07
CenovusEnergy	CVE	16.50	0.52
Centene	CNC	64.94	2.53
CenterPointEner	CNP	28.38	0.17
CentraisElBras	EBR	7.05	0.07
CeridianHCM	CDAY	62.42	0.57
CharlesRiverLabs	CRL	196.34	2.96
CharterComms	CHTR	328.02	1.87
CheckPoint	CHKP	124.18	-0.63
Chemed	CHE	533.43	-0.34
CheniereEnergy	LNG	142.23	2.46
ChenierePtrs	CQP	45.05	0.58
ChesapeakeEner	CHK	76.15	0.90
Chevron	CVX	152.56	1.96
ChewyA	CHWY	35.85	6.36
Chipotle	CMG	2082.33	5.84
Chubb	CB	197.70	1.90
ChunghwaTel	CHT	40.78	-0.14
Church&Dwight	CHD	92.75	0.30
ChurchillDowns	CHDN	137.54	1.72
Ciena	CIEN	47.03	0.29
Cigna	CI	253.39	5.98
CincinnatiFin	CINF	97.15	0.65
Cintas	CTAS	476.00	3.86
CiscoSystems	CSCO	49.74	0.07
Citigroup	C	44.84	0.53
CitizensFin	CFG	26.39	0.61
CleanHarbors	CLH	143.49	3.09
Cleveland-Cliffs	CLF	14.07	0.19
Clorox	CLX	158.62	0.64
Cloudflare	NET	69.65	0.49
Coca-Cola	KO	60.00	0.34
CocaColaCon	COKE	680.24	18.50
Coca-ColaEuro	CCEP	62.70	0.31
Cognex	CGNX	55.63	0.67
CognizantTech	CTSH	62.19	-0.30
CoinbaseGlbl	COIN	63.57	1.37
ColgatePalm	CL	74.90	0.52
Comcast A	CMCSA	39.04	-0.31
SABESP	SBS	10.49	0.07
ConagraBrands	CAG	34.42	-0.45
Confluent	CFLT	32.41	0.57
ConocoPhillips	COP	99.53	0.28
ConEd	ED	91.82	-1.48
ConstBrands A	STZ	242.70	-0.27
ConstellationEner	CEG	88.88	4.86
Cooper	COO	374.19	2.66
Copart	CPRT	87.70	0.12
Core&Main	CNM	26.50	-0.24
CorebridgeFin	CRBG	17.09	0.47
Corning	GLW	30.87	0.06
Corteva	CTVA	53.86	0.32
CoStar	CSGP	79.73	0.33
Costco	COST	512.60	1.04
CoterraEnergy	CTRA	22.97	-0.28
Coty	COTY	10.99	0.15
Coupang	CPNG	16.11	0.51
Credicorp	BAP	132.24	0.79
Crocs	CROX	105.16	-7.12
CrowdStrike	CRWD	157.55	-2.58
CrownCastle	CCI	112.16	-1.05
CrownHoldings	CCK	77.29	1.06
CubeSmart	CUBE	44.28	-0.16
Cullen/Frost	CFR	102.23	2.03
Cummins	CMI	206.86	2.45
CyberArkSoftware	CYBR	152.23	-2.50

D E F

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
DCP Midstream	DCP	41.59	...
DTE Energy	DTE	107.26	-0.34
Danaher	DHR	232.69	3.07
Darden	DRI	161.73	3.21
DarlingIngred	DAR	63.19	-0.19
Datadog	DDOG	94.99	0.08
DaVita	DVA	94.71	1.04
DeckersOutdoor	DECK	465.01	-9.99
Deere	DE	352.57	6.69
DellTechC	DELL	45.46	0.65
DeltaAir	DAL	36.38	0.05
DentsplySirona	XRAY	37.66	1.54
DescartesSystems	DSGX	76.29	-1.04
DeutscheBank	DB	10.32	0.19
DevonEnergy	DVN	46.78	0.68
DexCom	DXCM	119.58	2.32
Diageo	DEO	168.72	0.70
DiamondbkEner	FANG	128.10	0.95
Dick's	DKS	126.23	-1.28
DigitalRealty	DLR	104.78	2.32
DiscoverFinSvcs	DFS	105.33	2.59
Disney	DIS	88.59	0.63
DocuSign	DOCU	57.20	0.80
DolbyLab	DLB	81.87	-0.66
DollarGeneral	DG	161.86	-39.23
DollarTree	DLTR	129.56	-5.32
DominionEner	D	49.02	-0.59
Domino's	DPZ	296.67	6.82
Donaldson	DCI	59.14	0.61
DoorDash	DASH	67.57	2.28
Dover	DOV	133.96	1.69
Dow	DOW	49.00	0.22
DrReddy'sLab	RDY	55.82	0.63
DraftKings	DKNG	24.43	1.09
Dropbox	DBX	23.19	0.17
DukeEnergy	DUK	88.12	-1.17
Duolingo	DUOL	154.14	4.57
DuPont	DD	67.44	0.25
Dynatrace	DT	51.64	0.65
ENI	E	27.35	0.79
EOG Rscs	EOG	108.15	0.86
EPAM Systems	EPAM	257.94	1.32
EQT	EQT	35.10	0.32
EastWestBncp	EWBC	49.09	1.24
EastGroup	EGP	163.37	-1.24
EastmanChem	EMN	77.75	0.66
Eaton	ETN	179.03	3.14
eBay	EBAY	43.26	0.72
Ecolab	ECL	169.12	4.07
Ecopetrol	EC	9.43	0.35
EdisonIntl	EIX	66.68	-0.84
EdwardsLife	EW	85.23	1.00
Elastic	ESTC	71.66	-1.16
ElbitSystems	ESLT	196.44	-9.90
ElectronicArts	EA	127.69	-0.31
ElevanceHealth	ELV	464.43	16.61
EmersonElec	EMR	79.35	1.67
Enbridge	ENB	36.22	1.02
EncompassHealth	EHC	62.30	0.28
Endeavor	EDR	22.79	-0.10
EnergyTransfer	ET	12.60	0.20
EnphaseEnergy	ENPH	181.47	7.59
Entegris	ENTG	109.85	4.60
Entergy	ETR	97.38	-0.82
EnterpriseProd	EPD	25.66	0.33
Equifax	EFX	210.55	2.60
Equinix	EQIX	753.26	7.71
Equinor	EQNR	25.87	0.49
EquitableHldgs	EQH	24.95	0.25
EquityLife	ELS	63.43	0.26
EquityResdntl	EQR	61.61	0.81
ErieIndemnity A	ERIE	214.12	0.02
EssentialUtil	WTRG	40.99	-0.24
EssexProp	ESS	219.17	3.11
EsteeLauder	EL	182.89	-1.14
Etsy	ETSY	81.99	0.94
EverestRe	RE	339.43	-0.59
Evergy	EVRG	57.20	-0.65
EversourceEner	ES	68.83	-0.40
ExactSciences	EXAS	83.84	2.26
Exelixis	EXEL	19.39	0.11
Exelon	EXC	39.48	-0.17
Expedia	EXPE	98.66	2.95
ExpeditorsIntl	EXPD	111.48	1.17
ExtraSpaceSt	EXR	143.36	-0.91
ExxonMobil	XOM	103.36	1.18
F5	FFIV	146.25	1.33
FMC	FMC	104.29	0.21
FTI Consulting	FCN	188.25	0.24
FactSet	FDS	390.29	5.40
FairIsaac	FICO	793.24	5.57
Fastenal	FAST	53.90	0.05
FederalRealty	FRT	87.75	-0.45
FedEx	FDX	217.29	-0.69
Ferguson	FERG	145.59	0.68
Ferrari	RACE	293.09	6.42
FidNatlFin	FNF	34.17	0.32
FidNatlInfo	FIS	55.00	0.43
FifthThirdBncp	FITB	24.79	0.52
FirstCitizBcshA	FCNCA	1269.83	22.53
FirstIndRlty	FR	51.78	-0.20
FirstSolar	FSLR	208.74	5.78
FirstEnergy	FE	37.18	-0.21
FirstService	FSV	146.36	1.22
Fiserv	FISV	112.75	0.56
FiveBelow	FIVE	169.35	-3.17
FleetCorTech	FLT	228.00	1.45
Flex	FLEX	25.54	0.15
Floor&Decor	FND	92.47	1.16
FomentoEconMex	FMX	101.31	0.70
FordMotor	F	12.11	0.11
Fortinet	FTNT	68.64	0.31
Fortis	FTS	42.22	0.16
Fortive	FTV	65.47	0.36
FortuneBrands	FBIN	61.27	0.82
FoxB	FOX	29.20	-0.01
FoxA	FOXA	31.31	0.11
Franco-Nevada	FNV	149.60	4.21
FranklinRscs	BEN	24.42	0.41
FreeportMcM	FCX	35.47	1.13
FreseniusMed	FMS	21.53	0.10
FullTruck	YMM	6.23	0.42

G H I

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
GE HealthCare	GEHC	79.83	0.32
GFLEnvironmental	GFL	36.91	0.77
GSK	GSK	33.80	0.20
GXO Logistics	GXO	57.46	1.54
Gallagher	AJG	202.13	2.35
GameStop	GME	24.10	0.05
Gaming&Leisure	GLPI	48.63	0.49
Garmin	GRMN	103.87	0.72
Gartner	IT	340.24	-2.62
GenDigital	GEN	17.55	0.01
Generac	GNRC	113.56	4.64
GeneralDynamics	GD	205.33	1.15
GeneralElec	GE	104.67	3.14
GeneralMills	GIS	83.89	-0.27
GeneralMotors	GM	33.02	0.70
Genmab	GMAB	39.33	0.52
Genpact	G	36.82	0.04
GenuineParts	GPC	149.22	1.24
Gerdau	GGB	4.83	0.11
GileadSciences	GILD	76.21	-0.73
GlobalPayments	GPN	98.84	1.15
GlobalFoundries	GFS	59.35	1.01
Globant	GLOB	186.75	2.94
GlobeLife	GL	103.78	0.60
GoDaddy	GDDY	75.07	1.69
GoldFields	GFI	15.79	0.47
GoldmanSachs	GS	316.40	-7.50
Grab	GRAB	2.98	...
Graco	GGG	77.19	0.70
Grainger	GWW	655.31	6.29
GraphicPkg	GPK	24.01	0.30
Grifols	GRFS	8.34	0.10
GpoAeroportuar	PAC	171.93	-4.90
GpoAeroportSur	ASR	280.05	-0.30
Guidewire	GWRE	82.24	-0.14
HCA Healthcare	HCA	267.87	3.68
HDFC Bank	HDB	64.76	0.36
HF Sinclair	DINO	41.32	-0.12
HP	HPQ	29.02	-0.03
HSBC	HSBC	37.42	0.60
H World	HTHT	37.50	0.88
Haleon	HLN	8.15	0.11
Halliburton	HAL	30.00	1.35
HartfordFinl	HIG	68.89	0.37
Hasbro	HAS	60.02	0.67
HashiCorp	HCP	34.85	0.51
HealthcareRealty	HR	18.55	-0.06
HealthpeakProp	PEAK	20.14	0.18
Heico	HEI	154.91	0.33
Heico A	HEI.A	123.82	1.97
HenrySchein	HSIC	73.43	-0.47
Hershey	HSY	259.66	-0.04
Hess	HES	129.05	2.38
HessMidstream	HESM	28.06	0.17
HewlettPackard	HPE	14.67	0.25
Hilton	HLT	137.67	1.55
Hologic	HOLX	79.15	0.26
HomeDepot	HD	288.39	4.94
HondaMotor	HMC	28.84	0.43
Honeywell	HON	193.86	2.26
HorizonTherap	HZNP	100.40	0.37
HormelFoods	HRL	40.20	1.95
DR Horton	DHI	108.48	1.64
HostHotels	HST	16.75	0.15
HowmetAerospace	HWM	43.73	0.98
Hubbell	HUBB	287.25	4.79
HubSpot	HUBS	517.79	-1.20
Humana	HUM	515.15	13.28
JBHunt	JBHT	169.33	2.36
HuntingtonBcshs	HBAN	10.46	0.15
HuntingtonIngalls	HII	201.21	-0.17
HyattHotels	H	109.89	2.41
ICICI Bank	IBN	22.99	0.07
ICL Group	ICL	5.50	0.01
IdexxLab	IDXX	469.84	5.07
ING Groep	ING	12.54	0.27
Invesco	IVZ	14.74	0.36
IQVIA	IQV	198.97	2.06
ITT	ITT	78.49	2.33
IcahnEnterprises	IEP	21.81	-0.76
Icon	ICLR	215.85	2.82
IDEX	IEX	201.32	2.16
IllinoisToolWks	ITW	221.98	3.25
Illumina	ILMN	199.09	2.44
ImperialOil	IMO	46.59	1.53
Incyte	INCY	61.51	-0.04
Infosys	INFY	15.83	0.08
IngersollRand	IR	58.15	1.49
Ingredion	INGR	105.52	0.92
InspireMedical	INSP	302.23	9.74
Insulet	PODD	272.48	-1.77
Intel	INTC	31.13	-0.31
InteractiveBrkrs	IBKR	78.47	1.24
ICE	ICE	106.37	0.62
InterContinentl	IHG	67.59	1.24
IBM	IBM	129.82	1.23
IntlFlavors	IFF	76.60	-0.69
IntlPaper	IP	29.17	-0.27
Interpublic	IPG	37.75	0.56
Intuit	INTU	422.12	3.00
IntuitiveSurgical	ISRG	310.54	2.70
InvitationHomes	INVH	33.85	0.11
IridiumComm	IRDM	61.21	-1.07
IronMountain	IRM	53.15	-0.27
ItauUnibanco	ITUB	5.29	0.15

J K L

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
JD.com	JD	34.53	1.93
JPMorganChase	JPM	137.58	1.87
Jabil	JBL	89.95	0.43
JackHenry	JKHY	151.17	-1.72
JacobsSolns	J	118.82	1.22
JamesHardie	JHX	25.49	0.89
JazzPharm	JAZZ	129.12	0.96
JefferiesFinl	JEF	30.10	0.03
J&J	JNJ	154.54	-0.52
JohnsonControls	JCI	59.96	0.26
JonesLang	JLL	141.97	1.63
JuniperNetworks	JNPR	30.55	0.18
KB Financial	KB	36.10	0.49
KBR	KBR	59.45	0.43
KE Holdings	BEKE	15.11	0.87
KKR	KKR	53.23	0.44
KLA	KLAC	452.53	9.54
Kanzhun	BZ	14.61	0.74
KarunaTherap	KRTX	229.26	2.71
Kellogg	K	66.03	-0.74
Kenvue	KVUE	25.28	0.19
KeurigDrPepper	KDP	31.17	0.05
KeyCorp	KEY	9.62	0.28
KeysightTech	KEYS	163.14	1.34
KimberlyClark	KMB	133.93	-0.35
KimcoRealty	KIM	18.21	-0.17
KinderMorgan	KMI	16.26	0.15
KinsaleCapital	KNSL	312.48	9.50
Knight-Swift	KNX	55.77	0.71
Philips	PHG	19.09	0.25
KoreaElecPwr	KEP	7.36	0.10
KraftHeinz	KHC	38.19	-0.03
Kroger	KR	44.66	-0.67
LKQ	LKQ	52.08	-0.67
LPL Financial	LPLA	195.79	1.01
L3HarrisTech	LHX	176.91	2.13
LabCorp.ofAmerica	LH	212.44	-0.09
LamResearch	LRCX	619.86	3.16
LamarAdv	LAMR	91.51	1.63
LambWeston	LW	112.07	0.87
LandstarSystem	LSTR	179.54	4.16
LasVegasSands	LVS	55.45	0.32
LatticeSemi	LSCC	83.09	1.78
Lear	LEA	125.69	3.03
LegendBiotech	LEGN	63.62	-0.55
Leidos	LDOS	78.47	0.41
Lennar A	LEN	108.14	1.02
Lennar B	LEN.B	95.13	0.57
LennoxIntl	LII	282.98	7.47
LiAuto	LI	29.15	0.10
LibertyBroadbandC	LBRDK	74.65	0.55
LibertyBroadbandA	LBRDA	74.46	0.99
LibertyGlobal C	LBTYK	16.82	-0.20
LibertyGlobal A	LBTYA	15.95	-0.35
LibertyFormOne C	FWONK	63.89	0.74
LibertyFormOne A	FWONA	71.13	0.51
LibertyBraves A	BATRA	37.30	0.22
LibertyBraves C	BATRK	36.48	-0.20
LibertySirius C	LSXMK	28.60	0.61
LibertySirius A	LSXMA	28.59	0.61
LifeStorage	LSI	126.54	-1.85
EliLilly	LLY	436.49	7.03
LincolnElectric	LECO	175.25	5.59
Linde	LIN	355.49	3.11
LithiaMotors	LAD	235.17	3.71
Littelfuse	LFUS	256.70	0.66
LiveNationEnt	LYV	81.13	1.19
LloydsBanking	LYG	2.21	0.04
LockheedMartin	LMT	449.67	5.66
Loews	L	56.29	0.39
LogitechIntl	LOGI	63.50	-0.34
Lowe's	LOW	203.92	2.79
Lucid	LCID	6.50	-1.26
lululemon	LULU	328.35	-3.58
LyondellBasell	LYB	86.66	1.12

M N

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
M&T Bank	MTB	121.30	2.14
MGM Resorts	MGM	39.12	-0.17
MKS Instrum	MKSI	99.15	1.84
MPLX	MPLX	33.33	-0.01
MSCI	MSCI	466.97	-3.56
MagellanMid	MMP	60.22	0.01
MagnaIntl	MGA	48.76	0.80
ManhattanAssoc	MANH	183.43	2.01
ManulifeFinl	MFC	18.77	0.25
MarathonOil	MRO	22.47	0.31
MarathonPetrol	MPC	105.87	1.03
Markel	MKL	1331.18	16.45
MarketAxess	MKTX	277.33	4.92
Marriott	MAR	171.14	3.35
Marsh&McLen	MMC	174.42	1.24
MartinMarietta	MLM	404.40	6.36
MarvellTech	MRVL	61.10	2.61
Masco	MAS	49.06	0.74
Masimo	MASI	165.32	3.48
MasTec	MTZ	101.87	0.51
Mastercard	MA	370.88	5.86
MatchGroup	MTCH	38.02	3.52
Mattel	MAT	17.53	0.12
McCormickVtg	MKC.V	87.20	0.50
McCormick	MKC	87.58	1.85
McDonald's	MCD	287.87	2.76
McKesson	MCK	389.23	-1.61
Medpace	MEDP	206.89	-0.08
Medtronic	MDT	82.75	-0.01
MercadoLibre	MELI	1258.02	19.02
Merck	MRK	110.93	0.52
MetaData	AIU	1.04	0.03
MetaPlatforms	META	272.61	7.89
MetLife	MET	50.38	0.83
Mettler-Toledo	MTD	1329.32	7.45
MicrochipTech	MCHP	76.66	1.40
MicronTech	MU	69.09	0.89
Microsoft	MSFT	332.58	4.19
MidAmApt	MAA	146.92	-0.14
Middleby	MIDD	133.18	1.18
MitsubishiUFJ	MUFG	7.03	0.42
MizuhoFin	MFG	3.01	0.09
Mobileye	MBLY	44.74	0.17
Moderna	MRNA	128.52	0.81
MolinaHealthcare	MOH	282.97	9.07
MolsonCoorsB	TAP	62.33	0.89
monday.com	MNDY	181.62	1.62
Mondelez	MDLZ	73.61	0.20
MongoDB	MDB	293.96	-0.17
MonolithicPower	MPWR	499.29	9.74
MonsterBev	MNST	59.36	0.74
Moody's	MCO	323.67	6.79
MorganStanley	MS	82.07	0.31
Morningstar	MORN	203.96	-0.74
Mosaic	MOS	31.77	-0.20
MotorolaSol	MSI	282.22	0.30
NICE	NICE	205.17	0.17
NIO	NIO	7.54	0.01
NNN REIT	NNN	42.51	-0.03
NRG Energy	NRG	32.40	-1.39
NVR	NVR	5570.61	16.39
NXP Semi	NXPI	181.00	1.90
Nasdaq	NDAQ	55.03	-0.32
NationalGrid	NGG	67.13	0.13
NatlInstruments	NATI	57.79	-0.01
NatWest	NWG	6.61	0.14
NetApp	NTAP	71.96	5.61
NetEase	NTES	85.78	0.70
Netflix	NFLX	403.13	7.90
Neurocrine	NBIX	91.19	1.66
NewOrientalEduc	EDU	41.28	3.61
NYTimes A	NYT	36.98	0.59
NY Cmnty Bcp	NYCB	10.56	0.28
Newmont	NEM	42.47	1.92
NewsCorp B	NWS	18.88	0.40
NewsCorp A	NWSA	18.69	0.38
NextEraEnergy	NEE	72.96	-0.50
Nike	NKE	107.62	2.36
NiSource	NI	26.67	-0.22
Nokia	NOK	4.05	0.04
Nomura	NMR	3.56	0.05
Nordson	NDSN	221.77	3.84
NorfolkSouthern	NSC	212.21	4.03
NorthernTrust	NTRS	73.04	1.12
NorthropGrumman	NOC	438.51	3.02
NorwegianCruise	NCLH	15.51	0.66
Novartis	NVS	97.11	0.86
NovoNordisk	NVO	157.98	-2.48
Novocure	NVCR	74.90	3.09
NuHoldings	NU	6.83	0.09
Nucor	NUE	133.03	0.97
Nutanix	NTNX	29.87	0.25
Nutrien	NTR	53.43	0.73
nVentElectric	NVT	44.26	0.88
NVIDIA	NVDA	397.70	19.36

O P Q

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
OGE Energy	OGE	35.01	-0.27
ONEOK	OKE	56.91	0.25
ON Semi	ON	87.95	4.35
OReillyAuto	ORLY	895.28	-8.03
OccidentalPetrol	OXY	58.12	0.46
Okta	OKTA	74.69	-16.21
OldDomFreight	ODFL	317.65	7.21
OldRepublic	ORI	24.27	-0.22
OmegaHealthcare	OHI	29.53	-0.28
Omnicom	OMC	89.30	1.11
OnHolding	ONON	27.17	-0.28
OpenText	OTEX	41.63	0.25
Oracle	ORCL	105.99	0.05
Orange	ORAN	11.67	0.08
Orix	IX	86.27	1.87
OtisWorldwide	OTIS	81.51	2.00
Ovintiv	OVV	34.09	1.02
OwensCorning	OC	108.63	2.30
PDD	PDD	69.09	3.77
PG&E	PCG	16.56	-0.38
PNC Finl	PNC	119.74	3.91
POSCO	PKX	69.05	1.17
PPG Ind	PPG	134.98	3.69
PPL	PPL	26.10	-0.10
PTC	PTC	135.07	0.67
Paccar	PCAR	70.02	1.24
PackagingCpAm	PKG	124.83	0.80
PalantirTech	PLTR	14.54	-0.17
PaloAltoNtwks	PANW	216.79	3.40
ParamountB	PARA	17.80	0.23
ParamountA	PARAA	15.39	0.18
ParkerHannifin	PH	325.99	5.55
Paychex	PAYX	107.20	2.27
PaycomSoftware	PAYC	281.11	0.98
Paylocity	PCTY	171.23	-1.52
PayPal	PYPL	63.05	1.06
Pearson	PSO	10.08	0.23
PembinaPipeline	PBA	30.88	0.61
PenskeAuto	PAG	138.43	0.21
Pentair	PNR	56.32	0.85
Penumbra	PEN	314.24	6.90
PepsiCo	PEP	182.19	1.10
PerformanceFood	PFGC	55.60	1.16
PetroleoBrasil	PBR	11.98	0.44
PetroleoBrasilA	PBR.A	10.74	0.46
Pfizer	PFE	38.02	...
PhilipMorris	PM	90.16	0.15
Phillips66	PSX	93.05	1.44
PinnacleWest	PNW	76.07	-1.21
Pinterest	PINS	23.61	-0.33
PioneerNatRscs	PXD	200.80	1.36
PlainsAllAmPipe	PAA	13.16	0.24
PlainsGP	PAGP	13.78	0.18
Pool	POOL	313.02	-3.21
PolestarAuto	PSNY	3.22	-0.19
Primerica	PRI	181.45	-0.57
PrincipalFinl	PFG	66.98	1.52
ProcoreTech	PCOR	61.87	1.40
Procter&Gamble	PG	143.96	1.46
Progressive	PGR	128.33	0.42
Prologis	PLD	122.64	-1.91
PrometheusBio	RXDX	198.65	-0.05
PrudentialFinl	PRU	80.13	1.44
Prudential	PUK	27.53	1.10
PublicServiceEnt	PEG	59.90	0.15
PublicStorage	PSA	283.43	0.13
PulteGroup	PHM	67.30	1.22
PureStorage	PSTG	34.28	5.49
Qiagen	QGEN	45.78	0.62
Qorvo	QRVO	98.43	1.17
Qualcomm	QCOM	115.83	2.42
QualtricsIntl	XM	18.06	-0.02
QuantaServices	PWR	176.05	-1.53
QuestDiag	DGX	134.05	1.40

R S

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
RB Global	RBA	52.84	0.76
RELX	RELX	31.88	0.58
RI RCM	RCM	16.43	0.18
RPM	RPM	80.05	0.26
RalphLauren	RL	106.09	-0.22
Rambus	RMBS	66.07	2.11
RangeResources	RRC	27.09	-0.28
RaymondJames	RJF	91.14	0.79
RaytheonTech	RTX	94.09	1.95
RealtyIncome	O	59.24	-0.20
RegalRexnord	RRX	131.57	1.68
RegencyCtrs	REG	56.40	0.13
RegenPharm	REGN	731.17	-4.39
RegionsFin	RF	17.36	0.39
ReinsGrp	RGA	141.85	1.85
RelianceSteel	RS	232.21	-2.47
RenaissanceRe	RNR	188.43	0.06
RentokilInit	RTO	40.14	0.41
Repligen	RGEN	167.07	-0.85
RepublicSvcs	RSG	142.73	1.10
ResMed	RMD	218.69	2.32
RestaurantBrands	QSR	75.30	2.39
Revvity	RVTY	115.67	0.35
RexfordIndlRealty	REXR	53.33	-1.11
RioTinto	RIO	61.04	1.99
Rivian	RIVN	14.58	-0.15
RobertHalf	RHI	66.36	1.34
Robinhood	HOOD	9.02	0.10
Roblox	RBLX	42.13	0.27
RocketCos.	RKT	8.07	0.05
Rockwell	ROK	280.47	1.87
RogersComm B	RCI	45.17	0.31
RoivantSciences	ROIV	9.35	0.26
Roku	ROKU	58.55	0.35
Rollins	ROL	40.22	0.90
RoperTech	ROP	452.80	-1.42
RossStores	ROST	100.90	-2.72
RoyalBkCanada	RY	90.38	0.90
RoyalCaribbean	RCL	83.23	2.26
RoyalGold	RGLD	126.77	2.93
RoyaltyPharma	RPRX	33.17	0.43
RyanSpecialty	RYAN	41.38	0.59
Ryanair	RYAAY	104.96	1.31
SAP	SAP	132.17	1.73
S&P Global	SPGI	368.99	1.56
SBA Comm	SBAC	220.69	-1.09
SEI Investments	SEIC	57.46	0.88
SK Telecom	SKM	20.75	-0.15
SS&C Tech	SSNC	55.32	0.36
STAG Indl	STAG	34.78	-0.02
Saia	SAIA	290.95	6.79
Salesforce	CRM	212.90	-10.48
Samsara	IOT	19.01	-0.24
Sanofi	SNY	50.46	-0.56
SareptaTherap	SRPT	124.28	0.68
Sasol	SSL	11.80	0.24
Schlumberger	SLB	44.98	2.15
SchwabC	SCHW	52.70	0.01
Sea	SE	57.98	0.57
Seagate	STX	61.30	1.20
Seagen	SGEN	194.67	-1.03
Sempra	SRE	144.18	0.65
SensataTech	ST	41.83	0.31
SentinelOne	S	20.72	-0.66
ServiceCorp	SCI	63.87	0.26
ServiceNow	NOW	542.96	-1.82
Shell	SHEL	57.09	1.09
SherwinWilliams	SHW	234.89	7.11
ShinhanFin	SHG	26.56	0.31
ShockwaveMed	SWAV	281.66	6.57
Shopify	SHOP	57.94	0.75
SimonProperty	SPG	103.40	-1.75
SiriusXM	SIRI	3.70	0.14
SiteOneLandscape	SITE	138.89	1.00
SkechersUSA	SKX	50.44	-0.93
Skyworks	SWKS	105.89	2.38
Smartsheet	SMAR	49.08	-0.50
SmithAO	AOS	64.58	0.64
Smith&Nephew	SNN	29.93	0.29
Smucker	SJM	144.90	-1.69
Snap	SNAP	10.33	0.13
Snap-On	SNA	252.67	3.81
Snowflake	SNOW	167.28	1.92
SOQUIMICH	SQM	66.17	0.28
SoFiTech	SOFI	6.82	-0.12
SolarEdgeTech	SEDG	294.75	9.92
Sony	SONY	96.66	2.96
Southern	SO	69.18	-0.57
SoCopper	SCCO	68.70	1.93
SouthwestAir	LUV	29.11	-0.76
Splunk	SPLK	103.00	3.71
Spotify	SPOT	153.92	5.52
StanleyBlack&Dck	SWK	76.14	1.17
Stantec	STN	58.73	0.90
Starbucks	SBUX	97.52	-0.12
StateStreet	STT	69.53	1.51
SteelDynamics	STLD	92.17	0.27
Stellantis	STLA	15.48	0.18
Steris	STE	202.45	2.45
Stevanato	STVN	27.54	0.63
STMicroelec	STM	44.95	1.51
Stryker	SYK	278.57	2.99
SumitomoMits	SMFG	8.32	0.26
SunComms	SUI	128.06	1.43
SunLifeFinancial	SLF	48.94	0.55
SuncorEnergy	SU	28.65	0.65
SuperMicroComp	SMCI	231.02	7.07
Suzano	SUZ	8.95	0.08
SynchronyFinl	SYF	31.55	0.59
Synopsys	SNPS	454.55	-0.41
Sysco	SYY	71.28	1.33

T U V

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
TC Energy	TRP	39.93	0.99
TD Synnex	SNX	89.32	-0.06
TE Connectivity	TEL	122.55	0.07
Telus	TU	19.08	0.11
Ternium	TX	38.79	1.48
TFI Intl	TFII	107.90	2.62
TJX	TJX	76.65	-0.14
TIM	TIMB	13.71	0.02
T-MobileUS	TMUS	138.91	1.66
TPG	TPG	26.52	0.72
T.RowePrice	TROW	108.38	1.22
TaiwanSemi	TSM	98.84	0.25
TakeTwoSoftware	TTWO	137.59	-0.14
TakedaPharm	TAK	15.89	0.05
Tapestry	TPR	39.73	-0.29
TargaResources	TRGP	68.80	0.75
Target	TGT	131.16	0.23
TeckResourcesB	TECK	40.96	1.89
TeledyneTech	TDY	391.41	2.76
Teleflex	TFX	233.77	-0.98
TelefonicaBras	VIV	8.08	0.20
Telefonica	TEF	4.18	...
TelekmIndonesia	TLK	27.21	-0.02
Tenaris	TS	25.69	0.93
TencentMusic	TME	7.33	0.39
TenetHealthcare	THC	72.55	1.35
Teradyne	TER	103.10	2.91
Tesla	TSLA	207.52	3.59
TetraTech	TTEK	165.79	8.32
TevaPharm	TEVA	7.20	...
TexasInstruments	TXN	175.81	1.93
TexasPacLand	TPL	1329.30	25.60
TexasRoadhouse	TXRH	109.41	1.51
Textron	TXT	62.31	0.44
ThermoFisher	TMO	519.38	10.92
ThomsonReuters	TRI	123.95	-3.23
3M	MMM	94.28	0.97
Toast	TOST	21.58	0.61
Toll Bros	TOL	68.70	1.00
TopBuild	BLD	206.60	4.94
Toro	TTC	97.63	-0.20
TorontoDomBk	TD	57.46	0.86
TotalEnergies	TTE	57.59	1.29
ToyotaMotor	TM	140.65	4.52
TractorSupply	TSCO	206.32	-3.27
TradeDesk	TTD	73.26	3.18
Tradeweb	TW	68.00	1.05
TraneTech	TT	165.91	3.43
TransDigm	TDG	778.15	4.50
TransUnion	TRU	73.61	1.60
Travelers	TRV	171.30	2.06
Trimble	TRMB	48.03	1.36
Trip.com	TCOM	32.23	0.65
TruistFinl	TFC	30.96	0.49
Twilio	TWLO	67.30	-2.32
TylerTech	TYL	398.98	2.02
TysonFoods	TSN	50.61	-0.03
UBS Group	UBS	19.52	0.61
UDR	UDR	40.09	0.42
U-Haul	UHAL	51.51	-1.26
U-Haul N	UHAL/B	45.26	-1.03
US Foods	USFD	40.59	0.81
UWM	UWMC	5.20	0.07
Uber	UBER	38.48	0.55
Ubiquiti	UI	162.14	-1.01
UiPath	PATH	17.93	0.04
UltaBeauty	ULTA	403.63	-6.00
Unilever	UL	50.12	0.18
UnionPacific	UNP	195.68	3.16
UnitedAirlines	UAL	47.41	-0.06
UnitedMicro	UMC	8.32	0.06
UPS B	UPS	167.83	0.83
UnitedRentals	URI	339.29	5.50
US Bancorp	USB	30.52	0.62
UnitedTherap	UTHR	213.48	3.74
UnitedHealth	UNH	493.63	6.39
UnitySoftware	U	30.12	0.40
UnivDisplay	OLED	147.65	0.32
UniversalHealthB	UHS	131.49	0.82
UnumGroup	UNM	43.48	0.03
VF	VFC	17.02	-0.20
VICI Prop	VICI	30.94	0.01
VailResorts	MTN	247.39	4.19
Vale	VALE	13.04	0.36
ValeroEnergy	VLO	105.93	-1.11
Valvoline	VVV	38.83	0.33
VeevaSystems	VEEV	198.30	32.60
Ventas	VTR	43.53	0.39
VeriSign	VRSN	223.28	-0.04
VeriskAnalytics	VRSK	219.97	0.86
Verizon	VZ	35.72	0.09
VertexPharm	VRTX	323.62	0.55
Vertiv	VRT	19.40	0.10
Viatris	VTRS	9.18	0.03
Vipshop	VIPS	15.08	0.76
Visa	V	226.50	5.47
Vistra	VST	24.64	0.67
VMware	VMW	133.94	-2.35
Vodafone	VOD	9.49	0.01
VoyaFinancial	VOYA	68.92	1.12
VulcanMatls	VMC	198.80	3.30

W X Y Z

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
WEC Energy	WEC	86.19	-1.16
WEX	WEX	169.35	3.50
W.P.Carey	WPC	69.21	-0.15
WPP	WPP	54.04	0.87
Wabtec	WAB	93.05	0.42
WalgreensBoots	WBA	30.32	-0.05
Walmart	WMT	147.41	0.54
WarnerBrosA	WBD	11.35	0.07
WarnerMusic	WMG	24.39	-0.06
WasteConnections	WCN	137.59	0.94
WasteMgt	WM	162.80	1.58
Waters	WAT	256.04	4.82
Watsco	WSO	327.18	2.81
WebsterFin	WBS	36.33	0.78
WellsFargo	WFC	40.06	0.25
Welltower	WELL	74.61	...
WescoIntl	WCC	136.29	-1.09
WestPharmSvcs	WST	341.53	6.90
WesternDigital	WDC	38.97	0.24
WesternMidstrm	WES	25.44	0.20
Westlake	WLK	105.28	1.33
WestRock	WRK	27.52	-0.49
Weyerhaeuser	WY	28.54	0.07
WheatonPrecMet	WPM	46.24	0.99
Whirlpool	WHR	131.40	2.11
Williams	WMB	29.11	0.45
Williams-Sonoma	WSM	113.94	0.43
WillisTowers	WTW	220.22	1.37
WillScotMobile	WSC	42.19	-0.89
Wipro	WIT	4.93	0.05
WoodsideEnergy	WDS	22.69	0.61
Woodward	WWD	107.57	2.16
WooriFin	WF	27.08	0.26
Workday	WDAY	215.31	3.32
WW Ent	WWE	99.63	-1.59
WynnResorts	WYNN	96.48	-2.22
XP	XP	18.04	0.39
XcelEnergy	XEL	63.55	-1.74
XPeng	XPEV	8.02	0.14
Xylem	XYL	102.13	1.93
YPF	YPF	11.30	0.31
YumBrands	YUM	132.25	3.56
YumChina	YUMC	57.13	0.67
ZTO Express	ZTO	25.79	0.55
ZebraTech	ZBRA	266.20	3.63
Zillow C	Z	46.01	0.40
Zillow A	ZG	45.15	0.36
ZimmerBiomet	ZBH	127.36	0.02
Zoetis	ZTS	166.00	2.99
ZoomVideo	ZM	67.83	0.70
ZoomInfoTech	ZI	25.91	1.18
Zscaler	ZS	135.09	-0.39

Dividend Changes

Company	Symbol	Yld %	Amount New/Old	Frq	Payable / Record
Reduced					
Advance Auto Parts	AAP	8.8	.25 /1.50	Q	Jul28 /Jul14
Stocks					
Cibus	CBUS		1:5		/Jun01
Golden Minerals	AUMN		1:25		/Jun09
Panbela Therapeutics	PBLA		1:30		/Jun01
Troika Media Group	TRKA		1:25		/Jun01
Verastem	VSTM		1:12		/Jun01
Foreign					
ASE Technology ADR	ASX	4.5	.46721	A	Aug03 /Jul03
Athene Hldg Non-Cum. Pfd.	ATHpE	9.6	.48438	Q	Jun30 /Jun15
Athene Holding Pfd. B	ATHpB	7.1	.35156	Q	Jun30 /Jun15
Athene Holding Pfd. D	ATHpD	7.3	.30469	Q	Jun30 /Jun15
Athene Pfd. A	ATHpA	7.7	.39687	Q	Jun30 /Jun15
Athene Pfd. C	ATHpC		.39844	Q	Jun30 /Jun15
Brookfield BRP 4.625% Nt	BEPH	7.1	.28906	Q	Jul31 /Jul15
Brookfield BRP 4.875% Nt	BEPI	7.4	.30469	Q	Jul31 /Jul15
Euronav	EURN	18.5	1.049		Jun13 /Jun02
Frontline	FRO	16.8	.70	Q	Jun30 /Jun16
STMicroelectronics	STM	0.5	.06	Q	Jul05 /Jun27

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

KEY: A: annual; M: monthly; Q: quarterly; r: revised; SA: semiannual; S2:1: stock split and ratio; SO: spin-off.

Borrowing Benchmarks | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Money Rates

June 1, 2023

Key annual interest rates paid to borrow or lend money in U.S. and international markets. Rates below are a guide to general levels but don't always represent actual transactions.

Inflation

	April index level	Chg From (%) March '23	April '22
U.S. consumer price index			
All items	303.363	0.51	4.9
Core	306.899	0.47	5.5

International rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Prime rates				
U.S.	8.25	8.25	8.25	4.00
Canada	6.70	6.70	6.70	3.20
Japan	1.475	1.475	1.475	1.475
Policy Rates				
Euro zone	3.75	3.75	3.75	0.00
Switzerland	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00
Britain	4.50	4.50	4.50	1.00
Australia	3.85	3.85	3.85	0.35
Overnight repurchase				
U.S.	5.05	5.08	5.12	0.71

U.S. government rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Discount	5.25	5.25	5.25	1.00
Federal funds				
Effective rate	5.0900	5.0900	5.1000	0.8300
High	5.4000	5.4000	5.4000	0.9500
Low	5.0600	5.0600	5.0800	0.8000
Bid	5.0800	5.0800	5.0800	0.8300
Offer	5.1100	5.1100	5.1200	0.8400
Treasury bill auction				
4 weeks	5.130	5.750	5.840	0.860
13 weeks	5.300	5.250	5.300	1.120
26 weeks	5.290	5.170	5.290	1.580

Secondary market

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Fannie Mae				
30-year mortgage yields				
30 days	6.282	6.414	6.812	4.321
60 days	6.299	6.432	6.988	4.390

Other short-term rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week high	low
Call money	7.00	7.00	7.00	2.75
Commercial paper (AA financial)				
90 days	n.a.	n.a.	5.23	1.33
Libor				
One month	5.16300	5.16000	5.19300	1.11971
Three month	5.49857	5.46314	5.51671	1.62600
Six month	5.64743	5.56414	5.64743	2.10929
One year	5.72543	5.62257	5.88071	2.77543

Secured Overnight Financing Rate

Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
5.08	5.05	5.08	0.69

	Value	Traded	52-Week High	Low
DTCC GCF Repo Index				
Treasury	5.195	21.400	5.195	0.700
MBS	5.199	54.650	5.199	0.770

Weekly survey

	Latest	Week ago	Year ago
Freddie Mac			
30-year fixed	6.79	6.57	5.09
15-year fixed	6.18	5.97	4.32

Notes on data:

U.S. prime rate is the base rate on corporate loans posted by at least 70% of the 10 largest U.S. banks, and is effective May 4, 2023. **Other prime rates** aren't directly comparable; lending practices vary widely by location; **Discount rate** is effective May 4, 2023. **Secured Overnight Financing Rate** is as of May 31, 2023. **DTCC GCF Repo Index** is Depository Trust & Clearing Corp.'s weighted average for overnight trades in applicable CUSIPs. Value traded is in billions of U.S. dollars. **Federal-funds rates** are Tullett Prebon rates as of 5:30 p.m. ET.

Sources: Federal Reserve; Bureau of Labor Statistics; DTCC; FactSet; Tullett Prebon Information, Ltd.

New Highs and Lows

The following explanations apply to the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market stocks that hit a new 52-week intraday high or low in the latest session. % CHG-Daily percentage change from the previous trading session.

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Highs

Stock	Sym	52-Wk % Hi/Lo	Chg
ALSPOrchidUn	ALORU	10.81	-0.3
AlphaStarAcqn	ALSA	10.64	0.1
Apple	AAPL	180.12	1.6
AstroNova	ALOT	16.51	3.1
AvePointWt	AVPTW	1.19	...
BOS BetterOnln	BOSC	3.17	9.6
BellevueLifeSci	BLAC	10.71	0.4
BentleySystems	BSY	49.65	1.3
BigBear.ai	BBAI	2.75	6.6
BiglariB	BH.A	1050.45	4.0
Biohaven	BHVN	21.25	18.4
BitDigital	BTBT	3.45	-5.9
CCC Intelligent	CCCS	11.20	1.9
CF Acqn VII	CFFSU	10.96	0.5
CentralPuerto	CEPU	6.96	5.5
CirrusCapitalAcqnWt	CETUW	0.09	-33.9
Chase	CCF	121.40	1.7
ChurchillVI A	CCVI	10.20	0.2
CipherMiningWt	CIFRW	0.55	6.4
CloverLeafA	CLOE	11.35	1.5
DA32LifeSci	DALS	10.13	0.5
DiscMedicine	IRON	40.00	7.1
DreamFinders	DFH	18.86	1.4
DuosTechs	DUOT	5.84	7.6
Dynatrace	DT	51.83	1.3
89bio	ETNB	19.12	5.6
EVI Ind	EVI	6.31	3.2
EvolvTech	EVLV	6.90	5.1
EvolvTechWt	EVLVW	1.49	3.6
FairIsaac	FICO	799.95	0.7
Forestar	FOR	20.85	1.7
FusionPharm	FUSN	5.25	-1.6
GSI Tech	GSIT	7.85	32.1
GarrettMotion	GTX	8.67	3.0
GoldenPathAcqn	GPCO	10.99	0.1
GrafAcqnIV	GFOR	10.00	...
Guidewire	GWRE	83.51	-0.2

Lows

Stock	Sym	52-Wk % Hi/Lo	Chg
AMC Networks	AMCX	11.16	0.9
ARBIOT	ARBB	3.03	-4.3
ATI PhysTherapy	ATIP	0.16	-7.7

Continued on Page B10

Mutual Funds

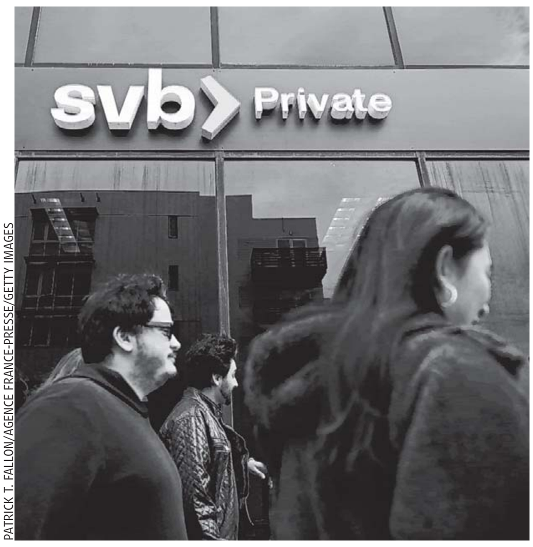
Data provided by LIPPER

Top 250 mutual-funds listings for Nasdaq-published share classes by net assets.

e-Ex-distribution. **f**-Previous day's quotation. **g**-Footnotes x and s apply. **j**-Footnotes e and s apply. **k**-Recalculated by Lipper, using updated data. **p**-Distribution costs apply, 12b-1. **r**-Redemption charge may apply. **s**-Stock split or dividend. **t**-Footnotes p and r apply. **v**-Footnotes x and e apply. **x**-Ex-dividend. **z**-Footnote x, e and s apply. **NA**-Not available due to incomplete price, performance or cost data. **NE**-Not released by Lipper; data under review. **NN**-Fund not tracked. **NS**-Fund didn't exist at start of period.

Thursday, June 1, 2023

Fund	NAV	Net Chg	YTD % Ret
AB Funds			
MunilncmShares	10.97	+0.05	3.2
AB Funds - ADV			
LgCpGrAdv	82.63	+1.07	21.2
American Century Inv			
Ultra	69.02	+0.79	25.1
American Funds Cl A			
AmcpA	34.22	+0.29	13.8
AMutlA	48.03	+0.31	-0.4
BalA	29.79	+0.16	3.9
BondA	11.48	+0.03	2.2
CapIBA	63.04	+0.34	0.8
CapWGrA	55.31	+0.61	7.6
EupacA	53.35	+0.72	8.8
FdInvA	65.18	+0.55	8.1
GwthA	57.52	+0.62	16.2
HI TrA	9.08	+0.02	2.9
ICAA	45.37	+0.40	8.4
IncoA	22.36	+0.11	-0.4
N PerA	53.90	+0.58	11.5
NEcoA	49.40	+0.43	13.6
NwWrldA	71.23	+0.82	7.2
SmCpA	59.28	+0.69	7.3
TxExA	12.17	+0.04	2.2
WshA	53.03	+0.31	-1.1
Artisan Funds			
IntlVal Inst	42.48	+0.51	10.1
Baird Funds			
AggBdInst	9.75	+0.02	2.9
CorBdInst	10.02	+0.02	2.9
BlackRock Funds			
HiYldBd Inst	6.73	+0.02	4.2
BlackRock Funds III			
iShS&P500IdxK	496.17	+4.93	11.7
BlackRock Funds Inst			
EqtyDivd	18.38	+0.10	1.0
StratIncOpptyIns	9.20	+0.01	1.9
Bridge Builder Trust			
CoreBond	8.96	...	2.5
CorePlusBond	8.84	...	2.5
Intl Eq	11.90	+0.12	8.4
LargeCapValue	14.16	+0.07	1.4
MunicipalBond	9.71	...	1.4
Calamos Funds			
MktNeutI	14.35	+0.03	4.4
Columbia Class I			
DivIncom I	28.86	+0.18	-1.2
Dimensional Fds			
5GlbFxdInc	10.03	...	2.6
EmgMktVa	27.64	+0.26	4.8
EmMktCorEq	21.16	+0.21	4.5
IntlCoreEq	14.36	+0.14	5.7
IntSmCo	18.12	+0.25	4.1
IntSmVa	19.34	+0.24	2.8
LgCo	31.91	+0.32	11.8
US CoreEq1	31.62	+0.31	6.6
US CoreEq2	28.64	+0.28	5.4
US Small	38.49	+0.38	-0.4
US SmCpVal	37.42	+0.42	-4.4
US TgdVal	26.56	+0.24	-3.3
USLgVa	39.61	+0.17	-2.3
Dodge & Cox			
Balanced	94.05	+0.65	1.8
GblStock	13.61	+0.11	6.1
Income	12.46	+0.03	3.0
Intl Stk	45.40	+0.50	6.7
Stock	215.62	+1.85	1.1
DoubleLine Funds			
TotRetBdI	8.79	+0.02	2.6
Edgewood Growth Instituti			
EdgewoodGrInst	37.66	+0.49	20.3
Fidelity			
500IdxInstPrem	146.87	+1.46	11.7
Contrafund K6	19.93	+0.26	18.5
ExtMktIdxInstPre	66.17	+0.69	5.1
FidSerToMarket	13.85	+0.14	10.0
GrowthCompanyK6	19.45	+0.31	26.4
IntlIdxInstPrem	44.84	+0.68	8.9
LgCpGwId InstPre	25.46	+0.31	22.3
MidCpInxInstPrem	26.30	+0.22	1.5
SAIUSLgCpIndxFd	18.61	+0.19	10.7
SeriesBondFd	9.01	+0.02	2.6
SeriesOverseas	12.25	+0.15	12.8
SerLTTreBdIdx	6.05	+0.03	4.2
SmCpIdxInstPrem	21.95	+0.23	1.2
TMktIdxInstPrem	116.25	+1.15	9.7
TotalMarketIndex	14.68	+0.15	9.8
USBdIdxInstPrem	10.48	+0.03	2.7
Fidelity Freedom			
FF2020	13.48	+0.10	5.8
FF2025	12.33	+0.09	6.2
FF2030	15.61	+0.12	6.8
FF2035	13.56	+0.11	7.7
FF2040	9.61	+0.09	8.4
Freedom2030 K	15.60	+0.12	6.8
Idx2030InsPre	17.96	+0.14	6.6
Idx2035InsPre	20.63	+0.16	7.6
Idx2040InsPre	20.46	+0.22	8.0
Fidelity Invest			
Balanc	25.23	+0.22	10.5
BluCh	147.62	+2.39	31.9
Contra	14.26	+0.19	17.7
CpInc	9.18	+0.03	4.9
GroCo	28.86	+0.45	26.4
InvGrBd	10.01	+0.03	2.7
LowP	45.87	+0.40	-0.7
Magin	10.73	+0.13	12.0
NASDAQ	165.78	+2.10	29.7
OTC	15.09	+0.17	22.4
Puritn	22.23	+0.22	8.9
SAIUSQtyIdx	17.25	+0.17	12.7
SrsEmrgMkt	16.38	+0.23	4.9
SrsGlobal	13.17	+0.19	6.6
SrsGroCoRetail	17.42	+0.28	26.5
SrsIntlGrw	16.02	+0.20	12.3
SrsIntlVal	10.65	+0.20	6.2
TotalBond	9.46	+0.01	3.1
Fidelity SAI			
TotalBd	8.96	+0.02	3.2
U.S.TreBdIdx	8.82	+0.02	2.8
First Eagle Funds			
GlbA	61.21	+0.68	5.6
Franklin A1			
IncomeA1	2.25	...	1.9
FrankTemp/Frank Adv			
IncomeAdv	2.23	...	1.9
FrankTemp/Franklin A			
Growth A	114.76	+1.27	12.3
RisDv A	84.76	+0.72	2.9
Guggenheim Funds Tru			
TotRtnBdFdClInst	23.63	+0.04	3.6
Harbor Funds			
CapApInst	81.44	+1.02	29.8
Harding Loevner			
IntlEq	25.20	+0.35	7.6
Invesco Funds A			
EqIncA	9.71	+0.05	-0.6
Invesco Funds Y			
DevMktY	38.09	+0.44	9.0
JHF III DispVal			
DispValMCI	24.26	+0.27	-0.7
John Hancock			
BondR6	13.51	+0.03	3.1
JPMorgan I Class			
CoreBond	10.27	+0.02	3.2
EqInc	21.44	+0.11	-2.2
LgCpGwth	52.24	+0.64	16.8
JPMorgan R Class			
CoreBond	10.29	+0.02	3.3
CorePlusBd	7.23	+0.01	3.2
Lord Abbett I			
ShtDurInc p	3.84	+0.01	2.2
Metropolitan West			
TotRetBdI	9.17	+0.02	3.1
TRBdPlan	8.60	+0.02	3.1
MFS Funds			
IIE	31.18	+0.43	10.8
MFS Funds Class I			
GrowthI	157.26	+2.00	18.6
ValueI	46.66	+0.28	-3.0
Neuberger Berman Fds			
LCVal Inst	41.10	+0.17	-6.0
Northern Funds			
StkIdx	45.01	+0.45	10.7
Old Westbury Fds			
LrgCpStr	15.72	...	7.8
Parnassus Fds			
ParnEqFd	51.59	+0.40	10.0
PGIM Funds Cl Z			
TotalReturnBond	NA	...	NA
PIMCO Fds Instl			
AllAsset	10.65	+0.05	NA
TotRt	8.57	+0.02	NA
PIMCO Funds A			
IncomeFd	NA	...	NA
PIMCO Funds I2			
Income	NA	...	NA
PIMCO Funds Instl			
IncomeFd	NA	...	NA
Price Funds			
BlChip	133.34	+1.79	28.8
DivGro	64.94	+0.38	1.6
Growth	78.10	+1.06	22.7
HelSci	89.34	+1.13	-0.5
LgCapGow I	57.37	+0.79	24.2
MidCap	94.16	+0.90	6.1
NHoriz	50.56	+0.61	9.1
R2025	15.43	+0.11	5.5
R2030	23.22	+0.19	6.4
R2040	26.23	+0.27	7.4
Schwab Funds			
1000 Inv r	NA	...	NA
S&P Sel	NA	...	NA
TSM Sel r	NA	...	NA
TIAA/CREF Funds			
EqIdxInst	29.81	+0.29	9.8
IntlEqIdxInst	20.80	+0.31	8.9
VANGUARD ADMIRAL			
500Adml	390.51	+3.88	10.7
BalAdml	42.77	+0.29	8.7
CAITAdml	11.19	+0.03	1.6
CapOpAdml r	159.18	+1.73	11.3
DivAppIdxAdm	41.93	+0.36	2.3
EMAdmr	32.90	+0.37	1.6
EqIncAdml	80.58	+0.51	-4.1
ExplrAdml	90.93	+0.83	4.7
ExtndAdml	106.22	+1.11	5.0
GNMAAdml	9.24	+0.01	2.1
GrwthAdml	138.13	+1.79	26.1
HlthCareAdml r	88.58	+1.07	1.9
HYCorAdml r	5.20	+0.01	3.4
InfProAd	23.36	+0.06	2.7
IntlGrAdml	101.19	+1.59	10.8
ITBondAdml	10.13	+0.03	2.9
ITIGradeAdml	8.50	+0.03	3.8
LarCapAd	97.57	+0.97	12.0
LTGradeAdml	7.97	+0.03	4.2
MidCpAdml	254.69	+2.26	1.3
MuHYAdml	10.42	+0.04	3.2
MuIntAdml	13.44	+0.03	1.8
MuLTAdml	10.78	+0.04	2.1
MuLtdAdml	10.59	+0.01	0.9
MuShtAdml	15.59	+0.01	1.0
PrmcpAdml r	145.18	+1.66	11.0
RealEstatAdml	113.45	+0.04	-2.0
SmCapAdml	88.83	+0.82	1.4
SmGthAdml	75.97	+0.86	7.9
STBondAdml	9.98	+0.01	2.0
STIGradeAdml	9.99	+0.01	2.2
STIPSIxAdm	23.86	+0.04	1.9
TotBdAdml	9.62	+0.02	2.7
TotIntBdIdxAdm	19.95	+0.03	3.0
TotIntlAdmIdx r	29.56	+0.42	6.3
TotStAdml	101.86	+1.00	9.6
TxMCapAdml	217.94	+2.16	10.6
TxMIn r	14.55	+0.22	8.0
USGroAdml	126.40	+1.78	24.8
ValAdml	52.99	+0.26	-2.6
WdsrllAdml	70.03	+0.69	5.9
WellsIAdml	59.01	+0.24	0.4
WelltnAdml	69.65	+0.42	5.9
WndsrAdml	68.83	+0.60	0.8
VANGUARD FDS			
DivdGro	34.77	+0.32	-2.2
IntlVal	38.62	+0.62	8.1
LifeCon	20.04	+0.12	5.3
LifeGro	38.68	+0.38	7.4
LifeMod	29.17	+0.22	6.3
PrmcpCor	29.05	+0.29	8.5
STAR	25.96	+0.23	7.5
TgtRe2020	27.09	+0.15	5.0
TgtRe2025	17.68	+0.13	6.0
TgtRe2030	33.42	+0.27	6.5
TgtRe2035	20.69	+0.18	7.0
TgtRe2040	36.49	+0.35	7.3
TgtRe2045	24.58	+0.25	7.7
TgtRe2050	40.80	+0.43	7.9
TgtRe2060	41.92	+0.45	8.0
TgtRet2055	45.52	+0.49	7.9
TgtRetInc	12.51	+0.06	3.9
Welltn	40.13	+0.25	5.9
WellsI	24.36	+0.10	0.3
Wndsrll	39.47	+0.39	5.8
VANGUARD INDEX FDS			
ExtndIstPl	260.76	+2.71	5.1
IdxIntl	17.67	+0.25	6.3
MdCpGrAdml	83.02	+0.88	7.5
MdCpVlAdml	66.75	+0.48	-4.2
SmValAdml	65.74	+0.49	-3.1
TotBd2	9.52	+0.02	2.8
TotIntlInstIdx r	118.20	+1.66	6.3
TotItlIstPlId r	118.23	+1.66	6.3
TotSt	101.81	+1.01	9.8
VANGUARD INSTL FDS			
DevMktsIndInst	14.57	+0.22	8.1
DevMktsInxInst	22.77	+0.34	8.1
ExtndInst	105.66	+1.09	5.1
GrwthInst	138.14	+1.79	26.1
InPrSeIn	9.63	+0.02	2.7
InstIdx	353.32	+3.51	11.7
InstPlus	353.32	+3.51	11.7
InstTStPlus	73.21	+0.73	9.8
MidCpInst	56.26	+0.50	1.3
MidCpIstPl	277.48	+2.46	1.3
RealEstaInstl	17.56	+0.01	-2.0
SmCapInst	88.83	+0.82	1.4
SmCapIstPl	256.38	+2.35	1.4
STIGradeInst	10.06	+0.02	2.3
STIPSIxins	23.87	+0.03	1.9
TotBdInst	9.62	+0.02	2.8
TotBdInst2	9.52	+0.02	2.8
TotBdInstPl	9.62	+0.02	2.8
TotIntBdIdxInst	29.34	+0.05	3.0
TotStInst	101.85	+1.01	9.7
ValueInst	52.99	+0.26	-2.6
WCM Focus Funds			
WCMFocIntlGrwIns	21.96	+0.33	14.0
Western Asset			
CoreBondI	10.74	+0.03	3.0
CorePlusBdI	9.47	+0.03	2.6



PATRICK T. FALLON/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

The investment-banking unit was connected to Silicon Valley Bank.

Management of SVB Securities Readies Buyout

By Cara Lombardo And Ben Eisen

The investment-banking business tied to Silicon Valley Bank is preparing a management buyout that has the backing of Seth Klarman's hedge fund, Baupost Group, according to people familiar with the matter.

Management's bid for **SVB Securities** was the only one that emerged earlier this week during bankruptcy proceedings for the former parent of Silicon Valley Bank, SVB Financial Group, the people said.

The deal has the backing of Seth Klarman's hedge fund, Baupost.

There are no guarantees that the deal will happen or that Baupost will participate, but if so it could come together in the coming days.

Baupost is one of the world's largest hedge-fund firms and Klarman one of the best-known value investors. He makes large, long-term investments and frequently holds billions of dollars in cash so that he can move quickly when opportunity strikes.

In 2019, SVB Financial bought healthcare investment bank Leerink Partners. That bank's founder, Jeff Leerink, continues to run the combined business, which was rebranded as SVB Securities in 2022. SVB Securities rapidly added to its ranks over the past few years by poaching bankers from rivals as part of a push to expand and add a focus on tech clients.

Several of those bankers have since left, including a team of 11 technology bankers who joined Moelis in April.

Silicon Valley Bank was a separate unit of SVB Financial Group. It failed in March after rising interest rates triggered huge losses on its investments and it received more than $40 billion of deposit-withdrawal requests in a single day. Regulators decided the bank couldn't continue to function and stepped in to seize it.

In late March, First Citizens Bank acquired large pieces of Silicon Valley Bank, including its deposits, loans and branches.

—Justin Baer contributed to this article.

Pretium to Pay D.R. Horton $1.5 Billion for 4,000 Homes

By Will Parker

Investment firm **Pretium Partners** is paying more than $1.5 billion for thousands of homes, say people familiar with the matter, a move that could signal investors' re-entry to the housing market after higher interest rates drove them away.

The New York-based Pretium has agreed to pay **D.R. Horton**, the largest U.S. home builder by volume, for more than 4,000 homes scattered across the Southeast and Southwest, these people said. Pretium oversees a portfolio of about 100,000 rental homes and has been one of the largest buyers of American houses in recent years.

Unlike most D.R. Horton homes, the ones in the sale to Pretium were planned as rental homes. Many are already leased, these people said.

ANDREW KELLY/REUTERS

Unlike most D.R. Horton homes, the ones in the sale to Pretium were planned as rental homes.

The Pretium sale is a sign that investors still believe low housing inventory and elevated mortgage interest rates will continue to drive demand for rental housing, and especially for single-family homes. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.79% this week, its highest level since November, according to Freddie Mac. In April, there were about half as many homes for sale as in April 2019.

Single-family rental firms played a big role in stoking the pandemic-era housing boom, accounting for more than 1 in 5 home purchases at their peak.

The ability of these companies to compete on price and to close quickly with cash frustrated some individual home-buyers. Double-digit rent increases netted big profits for investors earlier in the pandemic, but higher interest rates and slowing rent growth caused many large single-family rental investors to pull back from the market last year.

In the first quarter of 2023, investors bought $27.5 billion of homes, a 46.3% decline from the same quarter a year prior, according to real-estate brokerage Redfin, which tracked sales in select metro areas, though the data doesn't include bulk sales of new construction homes.

Some landlords started offering concessions on new leases last fall.

Faced with slowing home sales, D.R. Horton said last summer it would seek to ramp up its rental-home business, including changing some planned projects from for-sale homes to rentals.

As the inventory of existing homes is fished out by both traditional and investor buyers, rental investors have increasingly looked toward new construction to add to their portfolios. Some builders have been shopping bulk packages of their unsold houses at discounts of as high as 20% to attract investor buyers, brokers and investors said.

Single-family rent growth has been slowing down for nearly a year.

Rents for houses rose 4.3% in March compared with the same month a year prior, according to housing data company CoreLogic.

That was the lowest rent growth rate since early 2021, CoreLogic said.

Pretium's purchase of D.R. Horton's homes was earlier reported by Bloomberg.

JOHN G MABANGLO/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

The long delays have forced some customers to make financial decisions they hadn't planned on. An Apple store in California.

Trian Revamps Leadership

Continued from page B1

Peltz took aim at Robert Iger after he took the chief executive role at the entertainment company for a second time. (Among other things, Trian was pushing for Disney to plan for Iger's successor and to slash costs.)

The fight was called off in February after Disney unveiled a reorganization and a cost-cutting plan.

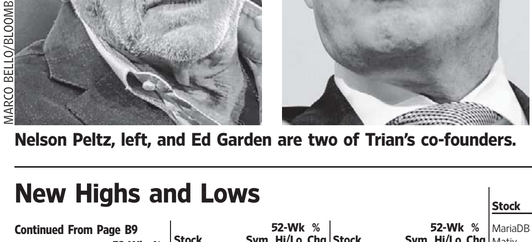
Trian ended last year with a little more than 9 million Disney shares before cutting its stake by about a third by the end of March, according to regulatory filings. Trian has since purchased roughly 500,000 more shares, giving it a total of 6.4 million, according to people familiar with the investment.

A boardroom brawl with Disney would have marked Trian's fourth proxy fight in the firm's history.

It has launched battles against chemical producer DuPont, ketchup maker H.J. Heinz and, most recently, in 2017 at Procter & Gamble. Nelson Peltz also recently joined the board of Unilever.

"We believe the market environment is increasingly conducive to our style of investing and continue to develop a robust pipeline of new investment opportunities," Nelson Peltz and May said in a memo to Trian investors about the reshuffle that was seen by The Wall Street Journal.

Collectively, Frank, the younger Peltz and Baldwin have more than 50 years of investment experience and have led more than 90% of Trian's investments since the firm's inception, the memo also said.



MARCO BELLO/BLOOMBERG NEWS (LEFT); MICHAEL NAGLE/BLOOMBERG NEWS (RIGHT)

Nelson Peltz, left, and Ed Garden are two of Trian's co-founders.

Complaints On Apple Account

Continued from page B1

tives at Goldman, which holds the deposits, sometimes gave differing responses about what to do, they said. Sometimes, their money appeared to have simply vanished, not showing up in their Apple account or in the account they were trying to move it to.

Goldman said it couldn't comment on specific customers but added that "we take our obligation to protect our customers' deposits very seriously."

"The customer response to the new savings account for Apple Card users has been excellent and beyond our expectations," the bank said in a statement. "While the vast majority of customers see no delays in transferring their funds, in a limited number of cases, a user may experience a delayed transfer due to processes in place designed to help protect their accounts."

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

On brand-new accounts, like Apple's, transfers that make up a large share of the overall balance can trigger anti-money-laundering alerts or other security concerns that require additional review, according to people in the AML field. Those delays usually last five or so days, they said.

It can also be a red flag when a customer tries to transfer a large amount of money from a newly opened savings account into an account that is different from the one where the money originally came from.

Min-Jae Lee was curious to try out the Apple account and intrigued by its high interest rate. She deposited $100,000 in April but soon decided she would rather have her money elsewhere. On May 1, she tried to transfer it out.

It took more than three weeks for her to get it.

Lee, a lawyer, said Goldman told her to contact JPMorgan Chase, where she was trying to move the money. Then, on Goldman's advice, she tried sending the money to her Vanguard account. The $100,000 moved there before going back to Apple the same day, she said.

Goldman then called her, she said, and told her that the money could be transferred only to the account from where she had sent it. She initiated a transfer to Ally on May 16.

A few days later, Goldman told her that her account was under a security review.

Her Apple account showed a zero balance, but the money wasn't in her Ally account either. It finally showed up there on May 25. She isn't entirely sure why.

It is reasonable that a bank would delay a transfer to do enhanced due diligence, but the length of the delay in these cases is surprising, said Dennis Lormel, who worked on financial crimes for the U.S. government for three decades and now is a bank consultant.

"A two- to four-week delay definitely seems long," he said. "As someone who deals with banks on a frequent basis, to me that seems unreasonable."

The Apple savings account has attracted people searching for the same thing: yield. It pays a 4.15% interest rate, riches compared with the current savings-account average of 0.25%, according to Bankrate.com.

Goldman also issues Apple's credit card, and consumers who want to open the savings accounts have to first sign up for the credit card.

For Apple, the new account is a way to expand the iPhone further into people's daily financial interactions, keeping customers linked to its ecosystem. For Goldman, it is a way to build deposits.

The Wall Street titan has encountered challenges, including regulatory probes, when dealing with the mundane tasks of servicing Main Street consumers. Goldman has been cutting back on its consumer lending and earlier this year said it is "considering strategic alternatives" for the unit that includes its credit-card partnership with Apple.

The long delays have forced some customers to make financial decisions they hadn't planned on.

Antonio Sanchez had to borrow money from his mother-in-law after a $100,000 transfer from his Apple account got stuck. Sanchez needed the money for a deposit so that he and his wife could go into contract on a home they are buying.

He eventually got the money—a day after the deposit was due. The experience left him unsettled. "Every person I talked to [gave] me a slightly different story," said Sanchez.

New Highs and Lows

Continued From Page B9

Stock	Sym	52-Wk Hi/Lo	% Chg
Hempacco	HPCO	0.47	-0.3
Hibbett	HIBB	34.86	-0.5
HighPeakEnerWt	HPKEW	9.21	-19.8
HomeFedBncpLA	HFBL	12.91	-0.4
HoraceMannEdu	HMN	29.99	1.4
HowmetAeroPfd	HWMp	58.00	-0.6
Huntsman	HUN	23.53	1.1
ICL Group	ICL	5.38	0.2
InvoBioScience	INVO	0.20	-19.5
Incyte	INCY	60.71	-0.1
Inogen	INGN	10.26	-1.5
IntegraLifeSci	IART	37.36	1.2
IntlFlavors	IFF	76.11	-0.9
IntlPaper	IP	29.01	-0.9
IntrepidPotash	IPI	17.23	0.2
Jewett-Cameron	JCTCF	4.55	2.3
KaryopharmTherap	KPTI	2.17	-2.7
KatapultWt	KPLTW	0.03	-10.3
KenonHoldings	KEN	25.00	-1.2
Kenvue	KVUE	24.75	0.8
KioraPharm	KPRX	1.66	-20.3
KnifeRiver	KNF	33.67	-4.4
Kohl's	KSS	17.89	-1.8
LCNB	LCNB	13.33	-1.4
Largo	LGO	3.60	0.8
Leafly	LFLY	0.27	-3.6
LionGroup	LGHL	0.09	-6.7
LivePerson	LPSN	3.49	-2.7
LumiraDxWt	LMDXW	0.03	-1.8
M3-BrigadeIIWt	MBAC.WS	0.01	-64.7
Macy's	M	12.80	1.2
MagicSoftware	MGIC	11.40	-4.4
MariaDB	MRDB	0.84	-2.3
Mativ	MATV	14.62	-1.5
Medifast	MED	77.67	0.7
MetalsAcqn	MTAL	8.49	1.5
micromobility.com	MCOM	0.17	-7.3
MillerKnoll	MLKN	13.20	1.3
MontereyCapWt	MCACW	0.00	-30.0
Mosaic	MOS	31.44	-0.8
MullenAuto	MULN	0.68	2.5
NIO	NIO	7.00	0.1
NV5Global	NVEE	89.30	2.0
NewbrgrBrmHY Rt	NHSr	0.03	-38.0
NeuroBoPharm	NRBO	0.54	-1.3
NeuroMetrix	NURO	0.93	...
NewellBrands	NWL	8.02	-1.3
Nogin	NOGN	1.10	-17.6
NorthwestNat	NWN	41.83	-1.3
NovaBayPharm	NBY	0.48	-2.3
NutexHealth	NUTX	0.41	-1.8
Nutrien	NTR	52.23	1.4
OncologyInst	TOI	0.36	-5.1
1stdibs.com	DIBS	3.52	-5.8
OriginAgritech	SEED	4.70	4.2
OutfrontMedia	OUT	13.82	0.4
PanbelaTherap	PBLA	5.91	-5.8
ParamountGoldNV	PZG	0.27	1.8
ParkNational	PRK	97.76	2.6
PermRock	PRT	4.10	-2.7
PhenomeX	CELL	0.63	-3.8
PolymetMining	PLM	1.35	-1.5
PowerREIT PfdA	PWpA	4.10	-0.3
PowerREIT	PW	1.85	2.1
PriveterraAcqnA	PMGM	9.70	...
QualTekSvcsWt	QTEKW	0.00	-36.2
QualTekSvcs	QTEK	0.08	-16.3
RamacoRscs	METC	7.26	1.9
Renren	RENN	0.87	5.2
RetractableTechs	RVP	1.04	-3.7
Revolve	RVLV	14.95	0.3
RiceAcqnII A	RONI	9.35	...
SLM Pfd B	SLMBP	53.20	2.8
Safe&Green	SGBX	0.75	-1.9
SangamoTherap	SGMO	1.07	-0.9
SealedAir	SEE	37.34	0.2
SelinaHospWt	SLNAW	0.05	-18.5
SenecaFoods A	SENEA	45.50	-1.4
ServisFirst	SFBS	39.66	2.7
ShiftPixy	PIXY	2.03	6.8
ShoeCarnival	SCVL	19.24	0.6
SleepNumber	SNBR	17.50	-0.2
SocietyPass	SOPA	0.58	3.3
SpartanNash	SPTN	20.61	-6.8
SportsmansWrhs	SPWH	4.18	4.0
Staffing360	STAF	0.96	-8.1
StrongGlbEnt	SGE	3.02	-1.6
SunOpta	STKL	6.33	-2.2
TelusIntl	TIXT	15.22	-1.6
TFF Pharm	TFFP	0.45	...
TH Intl	THCH	2.26	7.5
T2Biosystems	TTOO	0.09	17.8
TakungArt	TKAT	0.48	-5.7
TandemDiabetes	TNDM	24.42	-5.5
Target	TGT	126.75	0.2
Telephone&Data	TDS	6.50	-1.2
3M	MMM	92.38	1.0
TilrayBrands	TLRY	1.63	1.8
Torrid	CURV	2.05	-6.1
ToughBuiltInds	TBLT	0.73	-6.6
TransCodeTherap	RNAZ	3.75	-6.0
TrioPetroleum	TPET	1.35	-0.7
TrustcoBank	TRST	27.18	2.1
U-Haul N	UHAL/B	43.62	-2.2
US Cellular	USM	14.02	-0.5
USD Partners	USDP	0.80	-13.3
UnitedBancorpOH	UBCP	11.10	-1.9
UnitedFire	UFCS	20.85	1.5
US NatGas	UNG	5.87	-4.2
US12mthNtlGas	UNL	10.34	-1.4
UnivElectro	UEIC	7.78	0.1
UplandSoftware	UPLD	2.73	6.8
VF	VFC	16.77	-1.2
Vizio	VZIO	6.40	-1.8
Valhi	VHI	12.13	2.6
VenusConcept	VERO	2.06	-2.3
Veritone	VERI	2.98	-23.9
VermilionEnergy	VET	10.75	2.2
Victoria'sSecret	VSCO	17.39	-8.7
View	VIEW	0.14	-3.8
VillageBank&Tr	VBFC	38.18	-5.2
VillageFarms	VFF	0.56	-2.4
WeisMarkets	WMK	58.75	1.6
WeWork	WE	0.16	-2.6
Workhorse	WKHS	0.80	2.8
WrapTech	WRAP	0.95	-2.7

Stocks Rise on Debt-Ceiling Progress

Nasdaq leads advancers ahead of closely watched Friday jobs report

By Gunjan Banerji

Major U.S. indexes jumped on the first trading day of June as investors cheered progress toward a deal to avert a government default.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite led the way, adding 1.3% and building on strong gains from May. The S&P 500 added 1%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 153 points, or 0.5%.

THURSDAY'S MARKETS Thursday's trading activity underscored a continuing divergence: The tech-heavy Nasdaq outperformed the Dow by 0.81 percentage point after beating the blue-chip index in May by its widest monthly margin since October 2001.

A whirl of good news on the debt-ceiling impasse and U.S. economy gave the market a boost in trading. On Wednesday, a bill to avoid a default passed through the House of Representatives. The bill will next head to the Senate.

Meanwhile, fresh data showed that the jobs market remains strong. Hiring was robust again in May, with nonfarm private-sector employment rising 278,000. Jobless-claims data showed that worker filings for unemployment benefits remain historically low.

Many investors have eased up on bets that the Federal Reserve would raise rates again in June, helping drive the stock market higher, traders said.

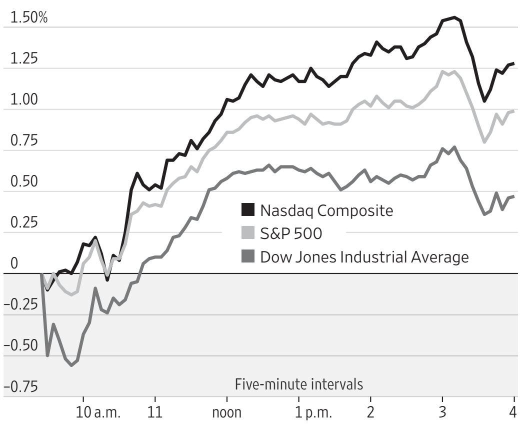
Two policy makers on Wednesday publicly underscored their preference to forgo an increase at the June meeting, barring a sizzling jobs report on Friday.

Investors are now betting on a roughly 30% chance that the central bank raises interest rates this month, down from around 50% a week ago, according to CME Group data.

"Things aren't deteriorating as fast as everyone expected," said Danny Kirsch, head of options at Piper Sandler. "People are finding less reasons to be hedged, or to be short."

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell for the third consecutive session to 3.607% from 3.636% Wednesday.

Index performance on Thursday



Source: FactSet

Thursday's rally was broad-based, with shares of everything from energy companies and cruise lines to technology stocks jumping. Shares of **Nvidia**, which have been on a hot streak, added 5.1%, making the stock one of the S&P 500's best performers again. Shares of **Meta Platforms** and **Amazon.com** jumped 3% and 1.8%, respectively.

Other S&P leaders were **Match Group**, up 10%, **NetApp**, up 8.5%, **Constellation Energy**, up 5.8%, **Comerica**, up 5.8% and **Carnival**, up 5.5%.

Retail stocks fell, badly underperforming the broader market.

Shares of **Dollar General** dropped 20% after the company's weak forecast.

Its executives blamed worse-than-expected macroeconomic forces, saying that lower-income customers were caught off-guard by lower tax refunds and a reduction in food-stamp benefits.

S&P 500 laggards included **Advance Auto Parts,** down 6.7%, **Salesforce**, down 4.7%, and **NRG Energy**, down 4.1%.

Brian Bost, co-head of equity derivatives at Barclays, said the recent stock-market moves are reminiscent of 2020, when stocks tied to everything from software companies to chip makers surged. Large institutional investors have rushed to profit from the tech rally, he said, which has helped drive mammoth one-day moves in individual tech stocks. "There is some underlying volatility that's being masked by the dispersion of the broader market," Bost said.

Some traders appeared to be caught off guard by the stock-market rally and have been looking to catch up through shares or bullish options trades, which have flourished lately.

"Many have missed this move higher," said Jeremy Wien, managing partner at Moo Point Capital Management, in an email.

Data on Thursday showed that activity in the manufacturing sector contracted for a seventh consecutive month in May, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

Still, ISM's prices index recorded a big drop, a sign that raw-materials prices slipped last month.

In commodities markets, Brent crude for August delivery gained $1.68, or 2.3%, to $74.28 a barrel.

The Stoxx Europe 600 added 0.8%. Early Friday, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was up 3.2%, South Korea's Kospi was up 0.9% and Japan's Nikkei 225 was up 0.8%. S&P 500 futures rose 0.1%.

—Caitlin McCabe contributed to this article.

AUCTION RESULTS

Here are the results of Thursday's Treasury auctions. All bids are awarded at a single price at the market-clearing yield. Rates are determined by the difference between that price and the face value.

FOUR-WEEK BILLS

Applications	$100,397,489,600
Accepted bids	$35,680,543,600
" noncompetitively	$2,937,854,000
" foreign noncompetitively	$0
Auction price (rate)	99.586750 (5.130%)
Coupon equivalent	5.237%
Bids at clearing yield accepted	83.82%
Cusip number	912797FR3

The bills, dated June 6, 2023, mature on July 5, 2023.

EIGHT-WEEK BILLS

Applications	$99,712,524,400
Accepted bids	$35,680,782,400
" noncompetitively	$930,551,400
" foreign noncompetitively	$0
Auction price (rate)	99.188000 (5.220%)
Coupon equivalent	5.350%
Bids at clearing yield accepted	83.14%
Cusip number	912797GA9

The bills, dated June 6, 2023, mature on Aug. 1, 2023.

Libor Users Face Deadline Of June 30 for Benchmark

By Mark Maurer

Companies that haven't switched away from the scandal-plagued London interbank offered rate ahead of the June 30 deadline for the benchmark's demise aren't likely to disrupt credit markets, but they could face a host of operational risks and potentially higher borrowing costs.

Libor, which has long underpinned financial contracts such as mortgages, corporate loans and interest-rate derivatives, will cease in its current form in July—essentially the death penalty for a manipulation scandal that came to light more than a decade ago. Companies, however, have been slow to shed their Libor ties over the past several years and ready their information-technology systems to handle the switch to a replacement.

More than half of companies haven't completed their transition, said Amol Dhargalkar, managing partner and global head of corporates at Chatham Financial, a financial-risk adviser. "At the end it's just like any term paper anybody wrote in college," he said. "For the most part, it all gets done right at the last minute."

Most U.S. businesses that made the switch have selected a version of the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, U.S. regulators' preferred alternative to Libor. A handful of companies have switched to the Bloomberg Short-Term Bank Yield Index, known as BSBY, or American Financial Exchange's Ameribor.

Companies' efforts have been aided, in part, by legislation aimed at easing the switch for certain legacy contracts. Regulators also extended the deadline by 18 months and permitted use of a key safety net called synthetic Libor.

Businesses that have switched from Libor aren't necessarily immune to hurdles. Term SOFR, a popular longer-term version of SOFR that helps businesses forecast cash, continues to cost more to hedge than the alternatives due to restrictions on banks, but not enough to deter companies from using it.

About 55% of U.S. loans in collateralized loan obligations, or securities made of bundles of low-rated corporate loans, were tied to Libor as of May 30, with the remaining 44% tied to SOFR, according to Barclays. The measure represents a proxy for the broader loan market. The percentage of Libor-linked loans is down from 79% at the end of 2022.

The percentage will likely be in the 40%-to-50% range by July 1, based on the current rate of the transition, said Corry Short, a research analyst for U.S. credit strategy at Barclays.

That amount of lingering Libor on the books is unlikely to cause market disruption because many of those companies have loans that are set up to automatically switch to SOFR after the phaseout, said Short. "We'll have to monitor closely,

55

The percentage of Libor-linked loans as of May 30

particularly the operational risk," he said.

Depending on the contract, loans will have different outcomes after the phaseout. Nearly 36% of U.S. outstanding leveraged loans are set up to automatically switch to SOFR after the phaseout, according to Covenant Review, a unit of research firm Fitch Solutions. These loans contain fallback language from the Alternative Reference Rates Committee, or ARRC, a group of financial firms handling the U.S. phaseout of Libor alongside the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Some companies that have arranged an automatic fallback to SOFR have put off upgrading their IT systems in favor of addressing other priorities such as inflation, Chatham Financial's Dhargalkar said. For example, their systems may not be set up for a rate that represents a daily weighted average of SOFR over a certain period.

"Some have said, 'Let's do it later once this all dies down,'" he said. "'We'll let it fall back and we'll deal with that later because we have other priorities.'"

Companies also might not have the same fallback language for their debt and derivatives, raising other operational risks. "Those operational considerations are real for both debt and derivatives in that they fall back to something that companies' processes and systems don't currently support," Dhargalkar said.

Finance executives need to have protocols and reporting processes in place so they can look at their portfolios and readily determine the value of their financial contracts, said William Wagner, partner at law firm Venable. "This is a lot more than just simply updating programming," he said.

Roughly 56% of U.S. leveraged loans allow for a transition via amendments, most of which require lenders to approve or not object, Covenant Review said. Firms have been clashing with their debtholders over the amount of interest they will be paying as they switch these agreements.

More than 8% of outstanding U.S. leveraged loans tied to Libor have no successor listed as of May 30, down from 10.9% a year earlier.

Companies that lack transitional language in their financial contracts or haven't manually switched to a replacement rate could face operational risk and higher costs as their contracts could revert to the prime lending rate, a pricier benchmark, come July.

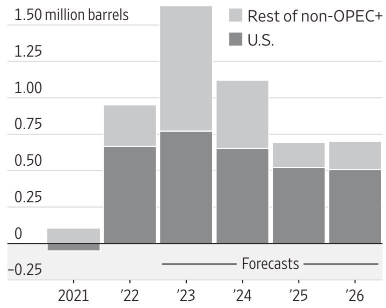
The loans that face the most risk are those that fall back to the prime rate if Libor is no longer available or representative, especially if all of the lenders need to agree on Libor's replacement, said Joyce Frost, co-founder of Riverside Risk Advisors, an advisory firm.

The borrowers will encounter prohibitively costly rates under prime, she said.

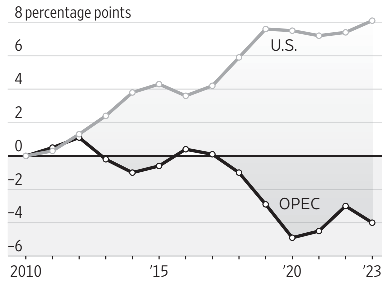
"The onus is on the bank and the borrower to focus and address and remediate these Libor-based loans," she said.

Brent crude-oil futures price* and production cut announcements

Annual crude-oil production changes



Cumulative change from 2010 in share of world's crude-oil production†



*Front-month contract †2023 is a forecast

Sources: FactSet (futures price); Rystad Energy (production, cumulative change)

Oil Traders Expect Prices To Stay Low as OPEC Meets

By Bob Henderson

Oil traders are betting prices will continue to drop despite the best efforts of producing countries to boost them.

COMMODITIES Prices have slid since the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, the coalition known as OPEC+, jolted markets in October by cutting production by 2 million barrels a day. A February vow from Moscow to curtail another half-million barrels and a voluntary April move by eight OPEC+ members to cut 1.2 million barrels more haven't stopped the slide.

Futures on Brent crude oil, the international benchmark, have lost about 20% since the October cuts, settling at $74.28 a barrel on Thursday. That is below the estimated $81 that Saudi Arabia—the de facto leader of OPEC—needs to balance its budget.

The cuts have been countered by new petroleum from non-OPEC+ countries, by the prospects of economic slowdown and crisis, and by Russia's unexpectedly robust oil exports despite Western sanctions. Bullish analysts have repeatedly lowered their forecasts. Bullish traders have been repeatedly burned.

The result: lower prices at the pump, lower home heating bills for many and lower stock prices for energy companies such as **Exxon Mobil** and **Chevron**. Their shares have slid 6.3% and 15%, respectively, this year despite broad market gains that have sent the S&P 500 index up 9.9%.

Now, with OPEC+ facing challenges ranging from its own internal squabbles to the encroachment on its market share by countries such as the U.S., Canada and Brazil, analysts are laying odds on whether the coalition will cut again or hold fast this weekend.

Many traders appear to be betting on the latter.

A Standard Chartered report last week noted that more crude was sold in the futures and options markets in the prior four-week period than in any similar stretch since November 2018. The selling of the equivalent of 60 supertankers of fuel plunged the index the bank uses to track speculative trading to a low matching the one it hit at the start of the pandemic in 2020.

The next day, the Saudi energy minister threatened more reductions by telling speculators to "watch out." He was contradicted two days later by a senior Russian official who said cuts aren't in the cards this weekend, in his opinion, and that Brent would likely rebound to $80 on its own by the end of the year.

The conflicting statements, and a dearth of evidence that Moscow has pruned production as promised, might be emboldening the bears. Before OPEC+ was formed in 2016, a U.S. shale oil boom had dented OPEC's market share and its ability to control prices. By teaming up with countries including Russia, the world's third-largest producer, the cartel expanded its portion of global output to nearly 60% from about 40%.

With Russia's priorities now shifted by war and Western sanctions, some analysts said that OPEC+ is effectively defunct and that Saudi Arabia, the world's second-largest oil producer behind the U.S., is essentially on its own.

"We're back into the old world of OPEC where most of the important decisions are being made entirely in Riyadh rather than Vienna," said Jeff Colgan, a professor of political science at Brown University.

Colgan argued in a 2014 paper that OPEC has far less sway than it is often given credit for, because member states routinely cheat on their production quotas.

Other OPEC watchers note that in recent years the cartel has had trouble meeting its targets, let alone exceeding them, because of trouble in member countries such as Venezuela and Nigeria.

In addition, Saudi Arabia has shown a willingness to use its world-leading spare production capacity of roughly 2.5 million barrels a day as a cudgel to keep transgressors in line. At the start of the pandemic in 2020, for example, Russia refused to trim its output until Riyadh drove the price of Brent into the 20s by flooding the world with crude.

OPEC+ countries now comply with their quotas to avoid triggering another such episode, said Standard Chartered's head of commodities research, Paul Horsnell.

OPEC+ members might be more inclined to support prices with steeper cuts than in the past, said Jorge León, an analyst at Rystad Energy who once worked for the cartel, because their market share has become less of a concern.

For one thing, this year's jump in non-OPEC+ production growth looks unlikely to be repeated in the near future, according to Rystad's analysis.

Finra Fines Vanguard

Continued from page B1

"Vanguard Marketing takes its regulatory obligations seriously, and the firm is pleased to have resolved this matter," a Vanguard spokeswoman said in a statement. "Vanguard continues to make significant investments to improve our client and digital experience."

After Finra began to investigate the problems with estimated yield and income, Vanguard self-reported three other errors that had affected customers' statements around the same time, the regulator said.

In one instance, some statements incorrectly identified deposits as increases in market value. In another, Vanguard misstated customers' margin accounts. A third problem related to the way the company reported the effects of stock splits and other corporate actions on customer returns.

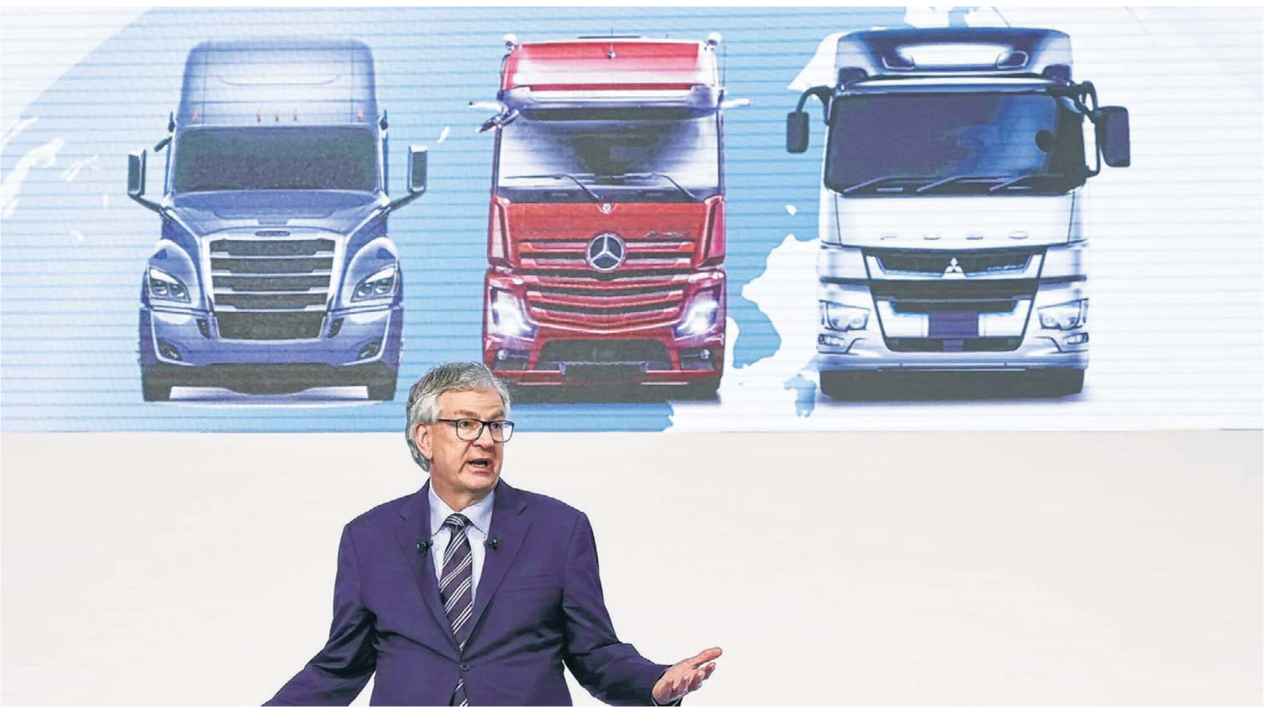
The misleading statements were sent in 2019, 2020 and 2021, Finra said.

The missteps may reflect Vanguard's struggle to keep pace with the torrid growth of its investing platforms, which have flourished in the past decade as investors flocked to the low-cost index funds the company once pioneered, said Jeff DeMaso, editor of The Independent Vanguard Adviser, an investing newsletter.

"Vanguard's tech systems have definitely lagged behind its peers," DeMaso said. "Their whole value proposition is to keep costs really low, but to do that you have to cut back somewhere. The service side is where Vanguard historically cuts things to the bone to keep costs down."

HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY



TORU HANAI/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Daimler Truck CEO Martin Daum on Tuesday said the electric-truck industry needs to fund nascent fueling technologies without additional vehicle sales.

EV Trucks Face a Fueling Dilemma

Technology-sharing deal between Toyota and Daimler signals onset of costlier times for big-rig makers

If you thought shifting from gas engines to electric vehicles was complex for the likes of **Ford** and **General Motors**, spare a thought for heavy-truck manufacturers.

Whereas most passenger-vehicle makers have followed **Tesla** down the single track of using battery technology to reduce carbon emissions, their peers in the big-rig business are juggling several options. Besides batteries, there are hydrogen fuel cells and even internal-combustion engines that might run on hydrogen. As Martin Daum, chief executive of Freightliner owner **Daimler Truck**, pointed out on Tuesday, the industry needs to fund these additional technologies without additional vehicle sales.

The occasion was a news conference to discuss Daimler's deal to merge its Japanese truck brand Fuso with scandal-struck local peer **Hino**, which is controlled by **Toyota**. The companies talked a lot about the need to pool resources. Fuso and Hino will combine everything except their sales operations, while Daimler and Toyota also will collaborate on future technologies, notably hydrogen.

The deal might be a warning to investors that technological change is about to get more expensive for truck manufacturers, which are only just starting to increase output of EVs using battery technology borrowed from the car industry. The vast sums car companies are plowing into battery factories to lift capacity set an ominous precedent.

Electric-truck sales are still very low. As of February, Sweden's **Volvo**, which has emerged as the early market leader, had sold only about 4,300 EVs since it started producing them in 2019. Yet sales will need to rise to meet aggressive regulatory targets. In California, for example, manufacturers will be required to sell specific shares of zero-emission vehicles, starting with an ambitious 9% for the 2024 model year.

Battery technology is a good fit for medium-duty trucks that distribute goods over shorter distances, but top truck makers still see hydrogen as necessary for long-range products. To cover more than 600 miles, say, trucks would need either huge quantities of expensive, heavy batteries or long recharging breaks, which might cost trucking companies money in downtime. The theoretical appeal of hydrogen is that it is light and, like diesel, could be piped into a truck in 10 to 15 minutes to refuel it.

If anything, the low-key launch of Tesla's Semi truck has reinforced the need for something other than batteries. The company said in April that the product was still in "pilot production" and, despite a headline industry-leading range of 500 miles, hasn't disclosed detailed specifications. Its launch customer, **PepsiCo**, mainly seems to use it to ship unusually light cargoes of potato chips, underlining the technology's limitations.

But hydrogen, too, has long been held back by some big practical weaknesses—notably refueling infrastructure. One of the objectives of the collaboration between Toyota and Daimler is setting the standard for refueling so that the technology isn't hobbled by competing approaches. Hydrogen is usually piped as a gas under pressure, but the pressure used varies, and some companies also see longer-term potential in liquefying it at superlow temperatures.

Daimler and Volvo, which are the two largest truck manufacturers globally, are both still testing hydrogen trucks, with a view to starting mass production in the second half of the decade. Infrastructure is likely to improve: The European Union recently set a target of having hydrogen fueling stations every 124 miles along the region's key trunk routes by 2031. The snags in the battery supply chain as EV output has increased also lend weight to the argument that alternative technologies can be complementary rather than competitive.

One intriguing wild card is the potential for truck-charging infrastructure to change the car business. "Why just leave it to the heavy trucks?" says Thomas Becker, head of sustainability and mobility at **BMW**, which has recently started to talk up the potential of hydrogen cars after a period of playing them down.

However the multitrack EV path unfolds for trucks, it is likely to be costly. For big rigs, a challenging technology transition is only just beginning.

—Stephen Wilmot

Banks in Bind on Commercial Real Estate

People are worried about banks' commercial real-estate lending. They should also be worried about what would happen if they didn't do it.

Right now, banks are facing a revenue issue. In the first quarter, the yield U.S. lenders earned on what they owned rose more slowly from the fourth quarter than the interest rate they paid to fund those assets, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s updated Quarterly Banking Profile released this week. That compressed banks' net interest margin, which is a key measure of their core profitability.

This aligns with what transpired in the first quarter: Many banks were paying a lot more for their deposits, and some even had to switch to more-expensive forms of funding, such as from Federal Home Loan Banks. That wouldn't matter so much if banks were still seeing equivalent or larger jumps in the yields on their loans, which one might think would also be a consequence of rising rates.

Yet a big problem has been that banks parked a disproportionate amount of money during the pandemic in fixed-rate bonds such as Treasurys or mortgage-backed securities. That counterbalanced the natural yield increases banks get on shorter-term or floating-rate lending, such as credit cards.

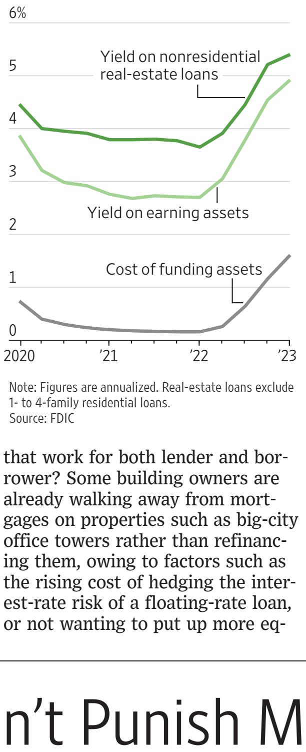
One thing that does produce a nice yield is commercial real-estate lending. Overall, banks' earning assets yielded an annualized 4.92% in the first quarter, according to FDIC data.

Banks' real-estate loans, excluding residential single- to four-family homes, yielded 5.4%. That represented a rise of more than 1.7 percentage points from a year earlier. Those residential home-loan yields, by contrast, rose just over 0.6 point from a year earlier to 3.96%.

Some home loans made at sub-4% yields might not be refinanced or paid down via sale for many years, if ever. Meanwhile, roughly $270 billion of banks' commercial real-estate lending is set to mature in 2023, according to the data provider Trepp. A maturing loan means a new one can be made at a higher rate.

But here also lies the problem: Will banks be able to offer new loans to some borrowers at terms that work for both lender and borrower? Some building owners are already walking away from mortgages on properties such as big-city office towers rather than refinancing them, owing to factors such as the rising cost of hedging the interest-rate risk of a floating-rate loan, or not wanting to put up more equity to cover for a property's falling value.

Bank yields and funding costs, quarterly



Note: Figures are annualized. Real-estate loans exclude 1- to 4-family residential loans.
Source: FDIC

Yet without getting the protection of higher rates or a lot more of an equity cushion against the property value, banks might be wary of the rising risks in areas such as offices, and in some cases, multifamily properties. They don't want to run straight from a revenue problem into a credit problem.

Noncurrent loans are those that are more than 90 days past due or in "nonaccrual" status, according to the FDIC. The share of banks' loans that aren't current, for commercial buildings that aren't occupied by their owner—in other words, things such as offices that need to be rented out—jumped from 0.56% in the fourth quarter to 0.79% in the first quarter, FDIC figures show. That is still below the nearly 1% rate at the end of 2020. But the jump was far sharper than for other major loan categories.

Banks need to find ways to boost their yields, especially if deposit costs are beginning a lengthy catch-up to higher interest rates. A key question is whether there will be enough creditworthy loans to make.

—Telis Demos

Sagging China Growth Won't Punish Metals Equally

If you want to understand industrial metals—especially iron and copper—listen to China. The country's property market is the biggest swing factor for demand.

And right now, it is saying some interesting things, which shares of big miners like **BHP**, **Rio Tinto**, **Glencore** and **Freeport-McMoRan** may not be fully pricing in.

Copper-exposed shares fared particularly poorly this spring as the growth picture in China darkened: Glencore and Freeport are down about 11% and 7%, respectively, since the end of April. Iron ore-exposed Rio and BHP are down only around 5%.

That doesn't necessarily line up with what is happening in China. What has really been lagging there are property starts: Floor space started was down 20% from a year earlier in April. Residential floor space completions, on the other hand, were up nearly 19%.

The latter stages of property construction tend to be more copper-intensive while the early stages tend to be more steel intensive. So a Chinese property market more focused on completions should be better for copper than iron ore. And Beijing wants property completions—to assuage unhappy Chinese families who bought presold homes in recent years which were never delivered.

That may be one reason copper prices have held up better in 2023: Three month forwards on the London Metal Exchange are down about 3% year-to-date, while iron-ore futures for June in Singapore have fallen more than twice that much, according to Refinitiv data.

This is likely to be a tough year for industrial metals generally, but the pain won't be distributed equally. Copper shares look better positioned, both for the short and long term.

—Nathaniel Taplin

Dollar General Is No Longer Downturn-Proof

Pinched lower-income consumers cut back

Dollar General thrived in the last economic downturn. This time seems different.

The retailer said Thursday that comparable-store sales rose 1.6% in its quarter ended May 5 compared with a year earlier—markedly worse than the 3.8% Wall Street analysts expected. Net income declined 6.9%. Sales trends were weak enough that the retailer lowered its guidance for the year: It now expects same-store sales growth of 1% to 2%, down from its prior expectation of 3% to 3.5%. Dollar General's shares plummeted nearly 20%, the worst daily drop in its history. Its shares now trade at 0.87 times expected revenue, lower than peer **Dollar Tree**, which is undergoing a turnaround with former Dollar General boss Rick Dreiling at its helm.

The company blamed worse-than-expected macroeconomic forces, noting that its typically lower-income customers were caught off-guard by lower tax refunds and a reduction in food-stamp benefits. Chief Executive Jeff Owen said they are relying more on items priced at $1 or below. Similar to those of other retailers, many of Dollar General's customers shifted spending to lower-margin consumable categories. While consumable category sales rose 8.9%, apparel sales fell 8.1%. Meanwhile, "shrink," or theft, pressured its margins, though that was mostly offset by other factors, including a decline in transportation costs.

It wasn't supposed to be this way: The dollar-store chain dominated during the last economic downturn, outpacing **Walmart**'s domestic same-store sales growth in every quarter starting in 2008 until the fiscal first quarter of 2010. There are three reasons why history might not repeat: One is that the economic pinch is different now with inflation stubbornly high and unemployment at a multidecade low. Even with jobs, lower-income households with little or no financial cushion may find themselves trimming on necessities. Dollar General said during the earnings call that some customers are relying more on food banks and that more are shopping soon after their payday.

Meanwhile, employed higher-income consumers are feeling squeezed, too, but perhaps not enough to trade down to dollar stores. The likes of Walmart are seeing the benefit, not Dollar General. Dollar General Chief Financial Officer Kelly Dilts said the company assumes no significant trade-down benefits from higher-income customers in this fiscal year's guidance.

Finally, Dollar General is dealing with much stronger competition this time around. With Dreiling at its helm, Dollar Tree has been turning its historically lagging store traffic and sales around—both at its namesake stores and Family Dollar.

Notably, Family Dollar has been lowering its prices to close its gap with competitors. Dollar General's results already look a lot worse than both Walmart and Family Dollar: Its 1.6% same-store sales growth was far behind the 6.6% and 7.4% growth that Family Dollar and Walmart U.S., respectively. logged in their most recent quarters.

Ironically, it may take a much deeper economic downturn to turn things around at Dollar General.

—Jinjoo Lee

Dollar General stock price, year to date

Source: FactSet

THE Cold Rush

Homeowners and luxury developers are racing to install ice baths as part of a trend to trick out home wellness spaces

FROM TOP: NATASHA LEE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; RAYON RICHARDS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3); SIMON BERLYN (WAVE HOUSE)

Tobias Lawry takes a dip in his Blue Cube cold plunge in his house's backyard wellness zone. He turned a bedroom into a fitness room, which opens into a backyard with a pool, sauna and the cold plunge, which he keeps at 47 degrees Fahrenheit. He and his wife, Christine, typically plunge in the evenings and on weekends.

By Jessica Flint

Most mornings after Stephen Garten wakes up at his home in Austin, Texas, he goes into his backyard and starts pacing, preparing himself for what's next. "It's brutal," says Garten, 37, the founder and CEO of social impact company Charity Charge. "It's a real challenge every day."

He's talking about lowering himself into a 66-inch-long and 24-inch-wide stainless steel tub clad in customized zebrawood and submerging himself up to his neck in water that he sets at 39 degrees Fahrenheit, with water circulating at 1,400 gallons per minute. "It's like being in a river," he says of the flow rate produced by this particular vessel, a Blue Cube cold plunge.

It's an experience that Garten typically tolerates for less than two minutes at a time, once or twice per day. And it comes at a price of $19,000. Blue Cube, based in Redmond, Ore., makes cold plunge units that cost between around $18,000 and $29,000.

"Cold plunging has made a profound difference in my life," Garten says. He says it has brought him health benefits including stress management.

Previously the domain of athletes, bathing in cold water or ice has become a mainstream wellness trend across the U.S. The practice goes by many terms, like cold plunging, ice bathing and cold-immersion therapy. Water temperature below 59 degrees Fahrenheit is generally considered cold immersion. People who swear by it say they've experienced wide-ranging health benefits, like reduced anxiety, alleviated joint and muscle pain and boosted energy and focus.

But while many people are experimenting with do-it-yourself methods—like taking cold showers or filling kiddie pools, horse troughs and unplugged chest freezers with cold water or ice—some enthusiasts have leveled-up their at-home cold plunging set-ups with sophisticated receptacles priced at tens of thousands of dollars

Please turn to page M6

Cristian Santangelo, left, and Onyx W.D. Johnson cold plunge in the wellness area of One Manhattan Square. A key reason for buying their $2.2 million apartment at the Lower East Side building was for the amenities covering 100,000 square feet. The cold plunge is set between 55 and 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

A Traditional Dacha, Made in Rural Indiana

A couple spent $2.9 million on a second home designed to evoke Old World charm, but with materials from the area

By Alina Dizik

TO BUILD THE weekend home of their dreams on their property near Dillsboro, Ind., Jerry Kathman and Liz Grubow turned to unlikely collaborator: a theater and opera-set designer.

The couple wanted their second home to be a dacha, in homage to Grubow's Ukrainian and Russian roots. They were inspired by the intricate dachas designed in Russia's late imperial period, and more specifically, the abandoned dacha made famous in the 1965 film "Dr. Zhivago." They asked their friend, Cincinnati-based theater and stage designer Paul Shortt, to do the design.

The house was constructed using local yellow pine and cedar. It has three cupolas and varying ceiling heights.

RYAN KURTZ FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"We let him create the fantasy without a lot of briefing," says Grubow, 66, managing creative director of LPK, a global branding consulting firm co-founded by her husband, 70. "We

Please turn to page M8

Developers Make $10 Million-Plus Profit on Palm Beach House Flip

The big-ticket home sales in Palm Beach, Fla., keep coming.

Real-estate developer Todd Michael Glaser said he and his partners have sold a waterfront Palm Beach home for around $63.5 million, significantly more than the $53 million the group paid for it last year.

SOLD
$63.5 MILLION
2 acres, dock, pool, cabana

Glaser's group, which he said includes former Allfast Fastening Systems owner James Randall, relisted the property for $79 million in November, and it was most recently asking $69.5 million, according to Zillow. Glaser said he didn't know the identity of the buyer.

While the sale recorded for approximately $63.5 million, Glaser said furniture, commissions and other considerations brought the total price to $66.5 million.

The roughly 2-acre estate has about 200 feet of water frontage and a dock on the Intracoastal Waterway. Originally built in 1936, the main house is about 10,200 square feet with five bedrooms.

There is also a guesthouse, swimming pool and cabana.

Glaser's group added a sea wall but otherwise left the property mostly unchanged. The value is mostly in the land, said listing agent Suzanne Frisbie of the Corcoran Group. The deal came with plans, commissioned by Glaser's group, to expand the house to 20,121 square feet.

Paulette Koch and Dana Koch of Corcoran represented the buyer; Dana Koch declined to comment on their client.

Glaser's group bought the estate from Darcie Glazer Kassewitz, daughter of the late billionaire Malcolm Glazer, and her husband, Joel Kassewitz.

Luxury homes in Palm Beach have seen major price appreciation over the past few years.

In the first quarter, the average luxury sales in Palm Beach jumped 14.7% to $34.1 million from the same period of last year, according to real-estate appraisal firm Miller Samuel.

—E.B. Solomont

Glaser and his group paid $53 million in 2022.

FROM TOP: GILES BRADFORD/DOUGLAS ELLIMAN; PELICAN PIX (2)

Affleck and Lopez Buy Megamansion in L.A. After Lengthy Search

After a house-hunting spree spanning many months, Hollywood power couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez have finally closed on a Los Angeles home for about $61 million, according to a person familiar with the situation.

SOLD
$61 MILLION
12 bedrooms, 24 bathrooms

Spokespeople for the couple couldn't be reached for comment.

Located in Wallingford Estates, a gated community in the Beverly Hills post-office area, the roughly 5-acre estate has about 38,000 square feet of living space, according to the listing. The estate includes 12 bedrooms, 24 bathrooms, a 12-car garage and a pool, plus a sports complex with basketball and pickleball facilities, a gym and a boxing ring, the listing shows.

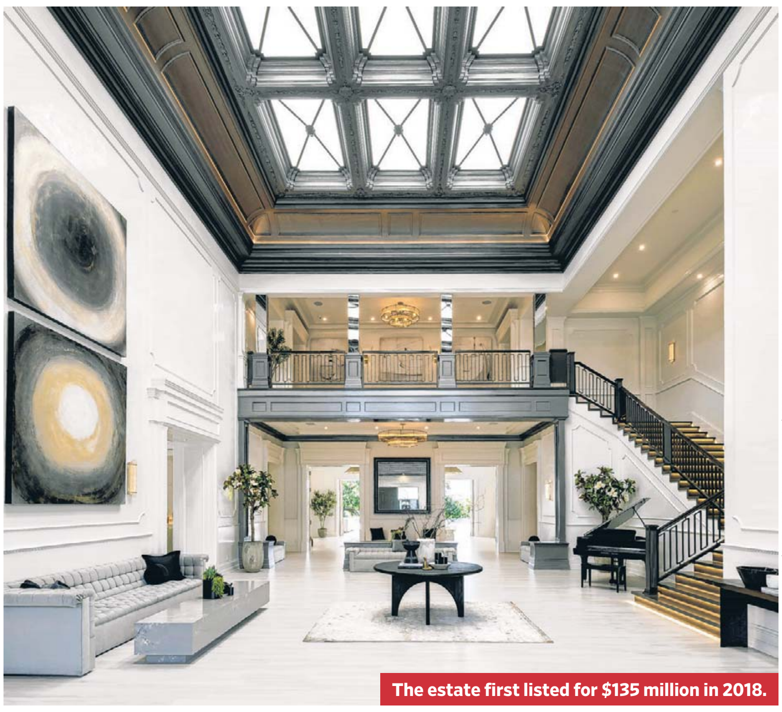
The property was first listed for $135 million in 2018 and had its price cut to $74.995 million in March, according to Zillow. Records show the seller is a company tied to developer Gala Asher.

Zillow shows that Ginger Glass of Compass listed the

property, while Brett Lawyer of Carolwood Estates represented the buyer.

Affleck sold his Pacific Palisades home for $28.5 million last year, records show. Lopez is listing her Bel-Air home for $39.995 million.

—Katherine Clarke



The estate first listed for $135 million in 2018.

FROM LEFT: MICHAEL TRAN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES; PAUL BARNABY

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The land is located in Oyster Harbors.

HALSEY FULTON

Bill Koch Lists Part of His Cape Compound

Billionaire Bill Koch, who owns at least 40 acres on Cape Cod, including a waterfront compound in Osterville, is putting about 11 acres of vacant land on the market for a combined $16 million.

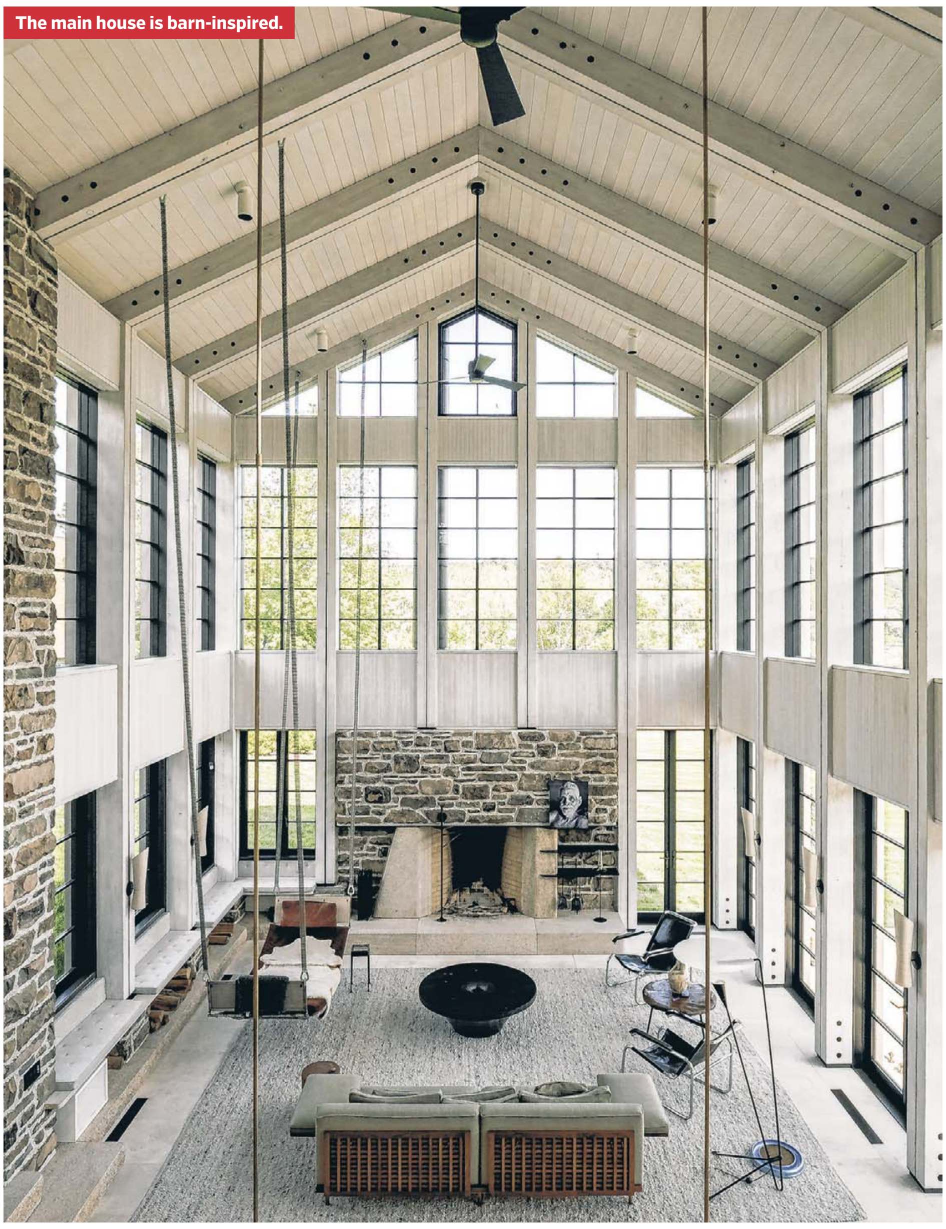
FOR SALE
$16 MILLION
11 acres of vacant land

Koch's estate is in Oyster Harbors. The land for sale includes five non-waterfront lots, each between 2 acres and 2.45 acres, said listing agent Zenas Crocker of LandVest, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate. The lots are also available individually for between $3 million and $3.55 million each, he said.

Koch assembled his current Oyster Harbors estate over a number of years. In 2012 he paid $7 million for a home on 1.78 acres. The next year he paid $19.5 million to buy more than 30 adjacent acres from the late philanthropist Bunny Mellon, records show. In 2014, he purchased roughly 10 acres from members of the du Pont family for an undisclosed amount.

Koch said he has decided to sell because real-estate values have appreciated, and he doesn't need the property.

—E.B. Solomont


The main house is barn-inspired.

130 Acres in the Hudson Valley

An heiress's approximately 130-acre estate in New York's Hudson Valley is asking $25 million, making it one of the most expensive homes for sale in the rural region, according to Zillow.

The seller is Beverley Kerzner, daughter of the South African casino and hotel magnate Sol Kerzner. She bought the Gallatin property in 2015 after more than a decade in India, she said, making it her primary home. Property records show she paid $3.5 million for it.

FOR SALE
$25 MILLION
130 acres, pool, 4 barns

The property is the priciest home for sale in Columbia County, according to Zillow, and will set a record for the county if it fetches its asking price, according to Leonard Steinberg of Compass, one of the listing agents.

The estate is named Ingadi, which means "garden" in Zulu. It has a four-bedroom main house, a five-bedroom cottage and a pool, according to the listing agents. There are four barns, including two built in the 1920s and one that dates to the 1700s, as well as horse paddocks and an outdoor riding area with professional-grade jumps.

Kerzner imagined turning one of the barns into a single-family home, but decided instead to build a new house.

The roughly 7,500-square-foot house has a wine cellar, gym, steam room and sauna. The primary suite has a private roof deck for yoga.

Elsewhere on the estate, Kerzner installed an Airstream trailer, two glamping areas, a fire-heated cedar hot tub and various lounging spots.

Kerzner, who has two adult daughters, said she is selling the property because she plans to return to more frequent travel, specifically spending time in South and Central America.

Steinberg shares the listing with colleague Byron Anderson.

—*Katherine Clarke*

BAILEY ROUBOS/COMPASS (2)

Heartbreaker: Singer Mariah Carey Sells Home at a Loss

UPDATE

Pop star Mariah Carey has sold her Atlanta-area home for $4.3 million, about $1.35 million less than she paid for the house at the height of the pandemic.

SOLD
$4.3 MILLION
4 acres, pool, tennis court

The buyer is Michael Dickey, chief executive of Atlanta-based magazine publisher Modern Luxury Media, according to Shanna Bradley of Ansley Real Estate, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate, who brokered both sides of the deal.

The roughly 4-acre property is located in Sandy Springs, a suburb just outside of Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood.

Carey, who bought it for $5.65 million in 2021, listed it for $6.5 million in September. It was last asking $4.995 million, according to Zillow.

Bradley said the market has softened since Carey bought the house. "During Covid, a lot of people paid premiums for houses like this because of the privacy, the amenities and the acreage," she said. "It was just a different time." She said Dickey was drawn to the size of the property and its curb appeal.

Carey didn't respond to requests for comment. Dickey, who owns other property in the area, declined to discuss the purchase. Modern Luxury Media publishes magazines in 22 regions.

2021 purchase price: $5.65 million

The Colonial-style house, built in the 1990s, measures about 12,600 square feet with nine bedrooms and a small recording booth installed by Carey, Bradley said. There are crown moldings, millwork and arched doorways. The primary bedroom has a pink-walled dressing room with a makeup mirror and salon chair. The property also has a pool and tennis court.

Carey, who grew up in Huntington, N.Y., is known for songs like "Always Be My Baby" and "All I Want For Christmas."

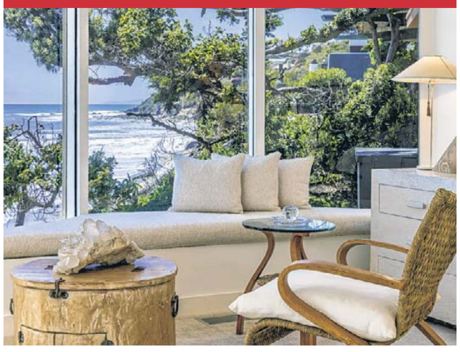
Bradley said Carey's band is located in the Atlanta area, and she lived there during part of the pandemic to be near them before returning to New York, where she also has a home.

When asked if Dickey is a fan of Carey's music, Bradley said she doesn't know, but guessed that he is. "I mean, who isn't a fan of hers?" she said.

—*E.B. Solomont*

JON-MICHAEL SULLIVAN; TODD OWYOUNG/NBC/GETTY IMAGES (CAREY)

The house was built in the 1950s.



SIMON BERLYN (3)

Wave House Crashes Onto the Market

An iconic Malibu, Calif., home designed to look like cresting waves is coming on the market for $49.5 million.

Wave House was designed in the 1950s by the late architect Harry Gesner, who famously sketched plans for the home while on his surfboard, after paddling out to the surf break in front of the property, according to Zen Gesner, Harry Gesner's son and one of the listing agents.

The Midcentury Modern home was most recently owned by Mo Ostin, an influential music executive who led Warner Bros. Records for decades. Ostin died in 2022 at age 95 and the property is being sold by his estate, according to his son, Michael Ostin.

The house was also previously owned by British rocker Rod Stewart, Zen Gesner said. Stewart didn't respond to a request for comment.

The roughly 6,200-square-foot Wave House appears to hover above the beach on stilts. The main living space is a sunken circular conversation pit. There are six bedrooms, including a large primary suite on the main level with a separate seating area and deck access. The property, which measures less than an acre, also has a small guesthouse and garage.

FOR SALE
$49.5 MILLION
6,200 sq. ft., guesthouse

The house was originally built for local couple Gerry and Glenn Cooper, who owned a lumberyard, Zen Gesner said. While designing the house, he said, his father camped out on the site for days, observing the sand, the views, the fluctuation of the wind and the surf. He wanted the house to "have the look of a giant wave at the very peak of its strength," Zen Gesner said.

The home put Harry Gesner on the map, gaining him international recognition, his son said. In the late 1950s, his father got a call from Jørn Utzon, the architect behind the iconic Sydney Opera House, complimenting him on Wave House, which is widely thought to have served as an inspiration for the Australian landmark.

"My dad was totally blown away that this architect was going out of his way to reach out to him and compliment him on his design, because most architects are egomaniacs," Zen Gesner said. "They don't tend to tip their hat to any other architect."

But over the years, Harry Gesner rebuffed the comparison between the two structures. "I wish people would not insist that something looks like something else, but they do. It's human nature and a bore," he was quoted as saying in the 2012 book "Houses of the Sundown Sea: The Architectural Vision of Harry Gesner," by Lisa Germany.

While the exterior of the home remains largely consistent with the original design, the interiors have gone through several iterations. When Stewart owned the property in the 1980s, he asked Harry Gesner to design railings for the decks. "He was very concerned that people at his parties would stumble and fall off the edge," said the architect's son, who grew up in the house next door, known as Sandcastle.

When the Ostins bought Wave House in the late 1980s, they removed some of the exposed wood interiors and replaced them with white finishes. They also replaced a pebbled roof with one made from copper shingles, which have gained a green patina over time, Zen Gesner said.

The listing comes less than a month after the adjacent Sandcastle, the Gesners' home, came on the market for $27.5 million following the architect's death in 2022.

Zen Gesner said he thinks it is possible that the two homes could be acquired as a pair to give a buyer a larger footprint on the beach.

Zen Gesner shares the listing with colleague Chris Cortazzo of Compass, as well as Dena Luciano of Douglas Elliman and Drew Fenton of Carolwood Estates.

—Katherine Clarke

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Garten's cold plunge cost $19,000. The 66-inch-long and 24-inch-wide stainless steel tub is clad in customized zebrawood.

Cold Calling

Continued from page M1

and up.

Developers, meanwhile, are adding cold plunges to amenity-rich luxury complexes like 53 West 53 in New York and Cipriani Residences Miami, betting that cold immersion is here to stay.

"Ice bathing seems like a trend, but people have been doing this for thousands of years," says Jonathan Coon, co-founder of Austin Capital Partners, which is the developer of Four Seasons Private Residences Lake Austin, 20 minutes from downtown Austin, slated to open in 2026.

In addition to 188 residential units starting at $4.1 million, the Lake Austin property on 145 acres will have 76,000 square feet of indoor wellness and sports facilities, including a 12,000-square-foot orangery, 82-foot swimming pool, sauna, steam room and, of course, cold and hot thermal baths.

Amenities covering 100,000 square feet is a key reason that Onyx W.D. Johnson and Cristian Santangelo bought a $2.2 million two-bedroom, 1,123-square-foot apartment in New York's One Manhattan Square, an 80-story building located on the Lower East Side. Facilities include a tranquility garden, 75-foot saltwater swimming pool, hot tub, sauna, steam room and hammam with a cold plunge set between 55 and 58 degrees Fahrenheit. The couple moved into the apartment in May 2021.

Johnson and Santangelo quivered at the idea of cold plunging until they started seeing other people dipping and discussing the health benefits. "We decided to give it a try," Johnson says.

Now cold plunging is part of their wellness regimen.

A cold plunge is one of the wellness features in the backyard at Stephen Garten and Katie Snyder's home.

> 'It's brutal,' says Stephen Garten on climbing into his cold plunge most mornings. 'It's a real challenge every day.'

Johnson, 50, who runs a management consulting firm, uses the hot pool, steam room and sauna, and then cold plunges for 45 seconds to a minute. He says this routine speeds up his training recovery time, helps him think clearer and improves his alertness and mood. Santangelo, 45, who is a management consultant, says the ritual helps him calm down and fight anxiety and stress.

Diamond Spas & Pools, based in Frederick, Colo., is a custom manufacturer of luxury pools, spas and soaking tubs for homeowners globally. The company added cold plunges to its portfolio in 2015 and saw one or two orders annually until 2019, when it experienced a sales surge. "Our cold plunge projects have increased ten times since then," says Mitch Martinek, the company's design manager.

Martinek attributes the uptick to several factors. Today's homeowners want gym and spa amenities at home and on-demand, cold therapy health benefits are better known now, and there are lingering pandemic concerns over public wellness facilities.

The company's cold plunges, which chill water to between 40 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit, are made from stainless steel or copper and can be camouflaged in tile, stone or wood. The pools can go indoors or outdoors, come in any size and can work with home automation systems. The average cold plunge costs about $45,000, with elaborate projects running closer to about $65,000.

One of the company's most unique cold plunges had an acrylic bottom and was in a high-rise building. "It was on a deck with a fire pit below," Martinek says. "The homeowner wanted to be able to look up through the cold plunge."

John Thorbahn bought a four-bedroom, 5,500-square-foot single-family home in Hingham, Mass., south of Boston, in March 2020 for $1.6 million. He owns a cold plunge from Phoenix-based company Morozko Forge, founded in 2018. Morozko Forge's entry-level unit costs $12,850; its upgraded version costs $19,900.

Morozko Forge's ice baths make ice. While the stainless steel tub is filled with cold water, an ice slab starts building at the tank's bottom. At about 1-inch thick, the ice detaches and floats to the water's surface. The ice can be broken up with an implement like a rubber mallet if needed.

Thorbahn, 63, who is the managing director at consulting company NFP, ice bathes most days for two to three minutes at 33 to 34 degrees Fahrenheit. His wife, Jana Thorbahn, 59, ice bathes, too. "The older you get, the more you want to live longer," says Thorbahn, whose home also has a gym, sauna, red light therapy room and hot tub. "You start investing in protocols to help you be healthy."

While many cold plungers have developed their own ice bathing rituals, choosing everything from their preferred water temperatures to time limits, Dr. Susanna Søberg, a Danish Ph.D metabolic scientist and founder of the Soeberg Institute, is one of the world's experts on the health benefits of cold immersion, which she has been studying for nine years.

In 2021, Søberg published research on cold exposure and hot exposure, which is called "contrast therapy" if the cold and hot exposures are performed in succession. Studying Danish winter swimmers, Søberg identified that a short plunge in cold, moving water combined with sauna use shifts the body's nervous system and creates physiological changes, like boosting metabolism, lowering inflammation and releasing neurotransmitters that improve cognitive performance and mental health. "You are activating your whole body system," Søberg says.

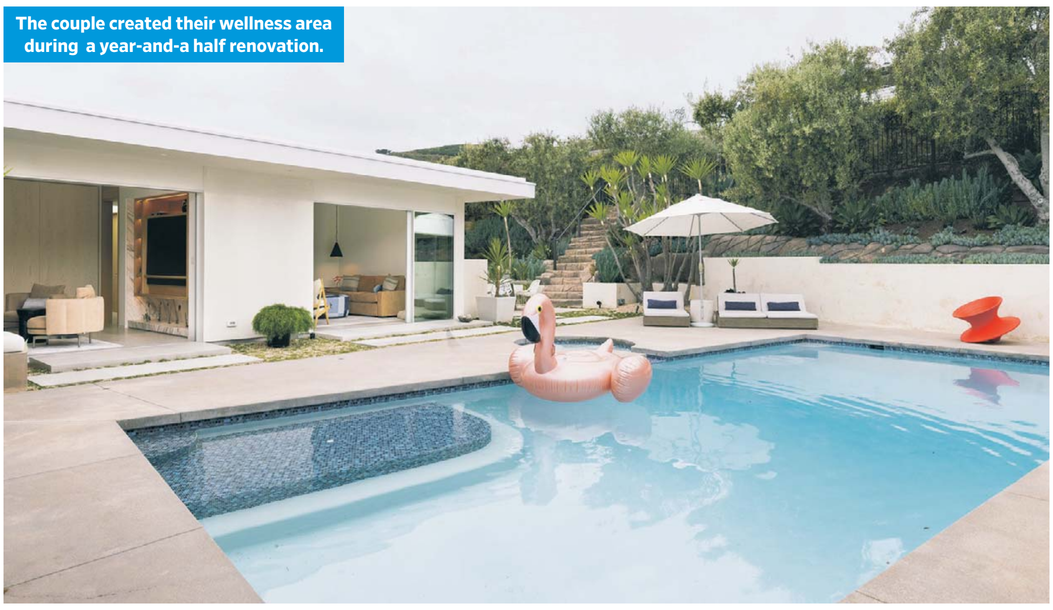
In a field that hasn't been widely studied by the medical community, Søberg has developed what she says is the only scientifically backed cold immersion protocol for reducing stress using contrast therapy and breathing:

Please turn to page M7

A Yardzen wellness yard. The company says most of its cold plunge projects involve saunas.

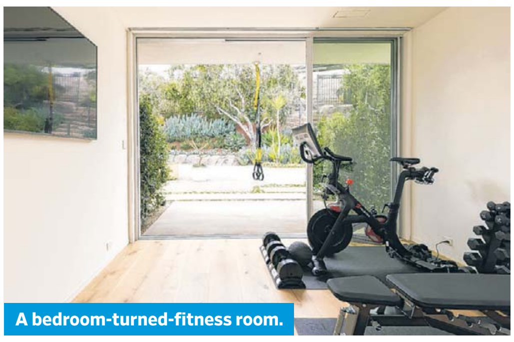
John Thorbahn ice bathing at home. Prices for his Morozko Forge ice baths go as high as $19,000.

FROM TOP: AMY MIKLER FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (5); YARDZEN; JOHN THORBAHN (2)



The couple created their wellness area during a year-and-a half renovation.

Tobias and Christine Lawry in the backyard of their 1963 Midcentury Modern house. The wellness area has a gym, sauna, a cold plunge and a pool.



A bedroom-turned-fitness room.

11 total minutes of cold immersion combined with 57 total minutes of heat, across two to three days per week. The goal of her method is to expose the body to the smallest amount of healthy stress needed to reap health benefits. "Staying in cold water or heat longer may not be beneficial or necessary," she says.

Søberg says cold immersion carries the rare risk of cold water shock that can cause confusion or fainting, but the risk increases if a person does hyperventilating breathwork before or during cold water immersion. She also says cold plunging might not be good for people with heart disease or high blood pressure. Søberg advocates for cold plunging with others, and practicing slow, nasal breathing in the water.

Contrast therapy is why Sausalito, Calif.-based company Yardzen says most of its cold plunge projects involve saunas. Yardzen is an online landscape and home-exterior design company that works with homeowners across the U.S. The company's co-founder and CEO Allison Messner says wellness yards—encompassing everything from cold plunges to saunas to meditation spaces to forest bathing—is one of Yardzen's top 2023 trends.

"Peak luxury is having both a cold plunge and a sauna in your yard so you can experience cold and hot therapy," Messner says.

Tobias Lawry, 51, and his wife, Christine Lawry, 50, live in a three-bedroom 1963 Midcentury Modern house in Dana Point, Calif. They purchased it in October 2018. Between July 2021 and October 2022, they worked with architect Chris Light, designer Frank Berry and builder Crawford Custom Homes to renovate their 3,000-square-foot house to honor its original period intention while modernizing it. This included turning a bedroom into a wellness room, which opens into a backyard with a pool, sauna and Blue Cube cold plunge.

The Lawrys, who run an estate-management and concierge services company called LPM, keep their Blue Cube at 47 degrees Fahrenheit. They typically cold plunge in the evening and on weekend mornings.

Stephen Garten in Austin also has a tricked-out wellness yard: In addition to his Blue Cube, he has a barrel sauna from Almost Heaven Saunas, which are manufactured in West Virginia and start around $7,500. He also has a stock tank pool from Cowboy Pools, an Austin-based company that has pool packages starting around $2,000.

He was inspired to create a backyard oasis where he and his fiancée, Katie Snyder, can have friends over. "It's wellness," Garten says, "but it's entertainment too."

The couple uses the hot pool, steam room and sauna and then cold plunges for 45 seconds to a minute.

Cristian Santangelo, left, and Onyx W.D. Johnson in their two-bedroom, 1,123-square-foot apartment.

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FROM TOP: NATASHA LEE FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (6); RAYON RICHARDS FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3)

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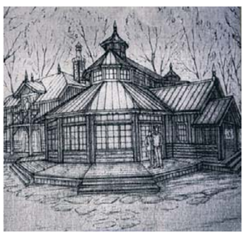

The plan by stage designer Paul Shortt served as the blueprint for the home.

A Dacha In Indiana

Continued from page M1

weren't obligated to build if he did something hideous."

The result was exactly the kind of modern storybook feel the couple envisioned. The designer came up with a traditional, timber-clad, country-house look, featuring three cupolas and spaces with different roof heights, including a 40-foot cupola above a living space with a double-height fireplace.

After the couple gave their blessing, the designer sent them a 3-D model of the plan. Kathman carried the model to a clearing overlooking a creek on their wooded property to better imagine how the final version would look. The hilly area is known for roaming deer, wild turkeys, foxes and box turtles.

"When we're here, it feels like we're the only people in the world," says Kathman, who is retired but remains chairman of the board at LPK.

It took three years to complete construction of the 4,000-square-foot, three-bedroom, four-bathroom house in 2022, at a cost of $2.9 million—with the help of architect Mark Gunther and local artisans.

The couple felt strongly about creating a whimsical home entirely out of timber harvested near the property, with both interiors and exteriors showing off the wooden construction. The structure also shows off local materials and craftsmanship. The builder, who owns a nearby lumber mill, made the oversize live-edge logs called for in the initial design, preferring yellow pine and cedar.

An area blacksmith designed custom metal brackets throughout to ensure stability. A potter-friend used the clay at the bottom of the creek on their property to create serving trays for their kitchen and dining area. The front door is made from black walnut found in Indiana.

"Using a set designer helped us set these aesthetic standards," says Kathman.

The interiors are meant to facilitate the kind of salon atmosphere the couple wanted. A prep room off the kitchen makes it easier to cater events. A large balcony overlooking an open-plan living and kitchen area is used as a stage for musicians.

Recently, the two hosted a quartet in residence at the University of Cincinnati for a gathering of 50 people. They also have held an event on behalf of the Cincinnati Literary Club. "We wanted a place where we could bring 50 to 60 people to listen to music," says Grubow, who is also chair of the board of trustees at the Cincinnati Opera.

Their primary home, an 1830s townhouse in Covington, Ky., is just across the river from Cincinnati's downtown and is less than an hour's drive away from the dacha in Indiana.

The Indiana property has been in their family since 1994, when Kathman paid $60,000 for 80 acres and a modest cabin, but it took more than two decades to

The timber is from the 200-acre property.

The balcony is used as a space for musicians.

Jerry Kathman and Liz Grubow took three years to construct their 4,000-square-foot, three-bedroom, four-bathroom house.

Front door: local black walnut

The entry, above, has a display of prints of vintage dachas as well as an antique samovar. The covered outdoor terrace, below, features a wood-burning fireplace.

RYAN KURTZ FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (5)

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The main bedroom of the three-bedroom home.

make the final call to build. By that time, the couple had acquired 120 more acres. Their two children had grown up staying in the family cabin, which is now a separate, renovated guesthouse with an additional bedroom.

It was only when Kathman was approaching retirement that he decided he needed a long-term project.

The couple, now married for 40 years, briefly considered purchasing property in New York or California to be closer to their adult children, but opted to invest in a home in an area already filled with family memories.

The plan really came together after Grubow's mother, who was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, died. "Her love of the woods and mushroom hunting is what inspired us," says Grubow whose father, also deceased, was born in eastern Ukraine.

The home resembles "a mushroom in the middle of the woods," adds Kathman.

The modern home uses geothermal heat to create warmth under the poured-concrete flooring.

The couple also kept the interior décor modern, with a series of interior glass panels, understated furniture and dark stone. "We made it contemporary, but we didn't want to lose that rustic character," Kathman says.

Outside, the couple built a covered terrace complete with a double-side wood-burning fireplace, making it comfortable to enjoy nature, even on snowy or rainy days.

In the summertime, overhead fans keep visitors cool. "We wanted it to be austere yet elegant," says Kathman.

They were deliberate about including touches of

RYAN KURTZ FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3)

An area blacksmith designed custom metal brackets throughout to ensure stability.

Above: the kitchen is large enough to accommodate caterers for an event. Left: the main living area has a 40-foot cupola, one of three on the home.

Russian and Ukrainian influences, without overwhelming the design.

A collection of dacha prints and an antique samovar are displayed in the entryway and hallway. Lacquer Palekh miniatures stand on a bookshelf. And medals from Grubow's grandfather, knighted by the czar, also are on display.

The couple skipped some classic dacha elements, such as ornamental furniture, lace curtains and fine China. "We didn't want death by dacha," Kathman jokes.

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IN THE TRENCHES | AMY GAMERMAN

A Listing on Pins and Needles

Q What's the weirdest request you've ever gotten from a client?

VICTORIA TENTLER-KRYLOV (2)

DEE DEE GUGGENHEIM HOWES

Real-estate agent, Compass Real Estate, Houston

I had a listing appointment with a gentleman who owned a beautiful house on one of the prettiest streets in Houston.

I brought my two assistants with me because it was a big house—like 12,000 square feet—and we needed to take notes. We were greeted by the housekeeper and shown into the formal living area. The seller was lying on the couch, fully dressed, with needles in his feet and needles in his head.

I knew immediately: acupuncture. The man next to him wasn't in a doctor's outfit, but he had a plastic container for hygienic needles. The gentleman said, "So nice to meet you, and I'm sorry about this, but the only time that he can come was today, and I did not want to miss him."

I said it was no big deal, and if it made him feel comfortable, then he should do that. And he said, "Well, I'm not going to be the only one doing this today. It will be necessary for you to have acupuncture, too. And I didn't know you were bringing your assistants, but they are also welcome to do it."

It was a test. At this price point—the house was about $14 million—clients sort of think they can test you. It was his way of seeing whether I would do what I needed to do to get the listing and follow along with him and his ways. I said, "OK, but I would prefer that my feet not be done, because I'm very ticklish."

He said, "Well, what I would suggest is that we do your head."

The acupuncturist started with one of my assistants, then he went to the other and then he came to me. We're all sitting there, and the client is intently watching us. It was odd: I couldn't smile or laugh. He had completely thrown me off my real-estate shtick, if you will.

He started asking me questions, totally reversing the roles. He asked, "How do you feel?" And I said, "I just feel very calm, like I've just done an hour of Pilates or yoga." And the girls were like, "We feel great! Thank you so much!"

I think the needles were in for 15 or 20 minutes. He had his in much longer. Then the acupuncturist took them out, and the client said, "Let's look at the house." It ended up trading off market for about $14 million.

Honestly, it took up a great deal of our Friday night. One of my assistants had just started with me. It broke her in real fast to the luxury market.

BIANCA D'ALESSIO

Founder, Masters Division of Nest Seekers International, New York City

It is one of my favorite buildings on the Upper West Side, a historic building close to Lincoln Center. I was representing the seller. The buyer was a musician and the apartment checked all his boxes: attractive price point, high floor, magnificent views. His one concern was the proximity of the apartment to the garbage chute.

It wasn't directly across the hall from the apartment—it was a few steps to the left and across the hall.

It wasn't a question of cleanliness—this building was meticulously maintained. It was a question of noise. He was nervous that the sound from trash going down the garbage chute would be heard from the apartment. The whole process involved four or five showings and a lot of listening. We went at different times of day. And then we did the garbage test.

The musician sat inside the apartment with his broker. We did a lot of opening and closing the doors to the chute on different floors, and we dropped different bags of garbage—bags of paper and bags of bottles. We did three or four bags in all, one from the floor the apartment was on, and from two different floors above it. He couldn't hear anything.

Was it weird as hell? Yeah. But the deal all hinged on this garbage chute, and his was the best offer. The contract was signed last week.

—Edited from interviews

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PRIVATE PROPERTIES

A Townhouse-Turned-School in N.Y.

A turn-of-the-century townhouse off New York's Fifth Avenue is coming on the market for $38 million.

The seven-level, neo-Georgian mansion is currently home to a Montessori school, but could easily be converted back to its original use as a single-family home, said Patricia Vance of Douglas Elliman, one of the listing agents. The seller is the School of Practical Philosophy, a nonprofit that helps people find meaning in their lives, and which has leased the space to the school since shortly before the pandemic, according to Howard Schott, chairman of the board on the nonprofit. The group bought the building in 1975, property records show.

FOR SALE
$38 MILLION
16,200 sq. ft., original details, roof deck

The roughly 16,200-square-foot house is located across the street from the home of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Designed by the Boston architectural firm of Little and Browne, it was completed around 1903 as one of a pair of mansions for then-prominent real-estate investor Charles Walter Ogden and his sister Mary F. Ogden, according to the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission. If configured as a single-family home, it could have at least eight bedrooms, Vance said.

The home has original woodwork.

FROM LEFT: EVAN JOSEPH (RENDERING); EVAN JOSEPH

The property was previously on and off the market starting roughly a decade ago, with an initial asking price of $51 million. It was last taken off the market in March 2018, asking $38.5 million, according to listings website StreetEasy. Schott said there were "no serious buyers" at the time, but he is now more optimistic about the chances of finding a buyer. The lease with the school is in place for several more years, but an exit clause could be exercised sooner, Vance said.

The 28-foot-wide house is "impeccably preserved," Vance said, with its original woodwork, intricate moldings, fireplaces and leaded glass. There is also a private roof deck with views of Central Park. The property's original configuration has been largely maintained, but two stories were added in the 1960s.

The nonprofit is selling because it has another location in the Hudson Valley and has moved some of its operations there, Schott said.

—Katherine Clarke

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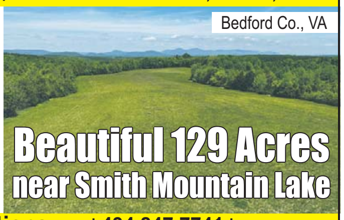

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How Singing and Musicals Set A Path to Comedy

A series of song contests helped the 'American Auto' star and 'SNL' alum land a spot at Northwestern and the campus improv group

Even as a child, I communicated through comedy. My father's mother said when I was 2, I made a joke about a bird outside on a bird feeder. The punchline is long forgotten, but she was impressed. Pointing at me, she said, "That one's funny."

In school, I was the wiseass in the back of the class, but not the class clown. There's a difference. My remarks were asides, not a bid for attention. I just observed life through a funny filter.

I grew up on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. We lived in a row house that shared walls with neighbors. If I was scared, I could pound on them and someone would come over.

My father, Philip, was legislative counsel for the organization that lobbied Congress for American savings banks. He was and is extremely dry and very funny. My mom, Mariana, was highly creative and taught art at a local school. My older brother, Stephen, was very sweet when I was young and still is. He and my mom laughed until they cried at the stuff I said and did.

I probably became a comedian because in elementary school, not only did I play the violin but I also wore an eye patch to strengthen the other eye. Being funny was an excellent alternative to getting mocked or beaten up.

From fourth grade on, I attended Sidwell Friends, a Quaker prep school. My first musical was "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." The teacher kept taking lines away from students and giving them to me. One kid blurted out "Why don't you just give her the whole play?"

At home, our family watched lots of comedy on TV—Flip Wilson, Carol Burnett and Bob Newhart. Bob was my favorite instinctive comedian. We also owned all the classic comedy records.

My big moment on stage in school came in seventh grade, playing Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker." I brought down the house. Definitely not a comedy, but I knew I wanted to be a performer.

In ninth grade, I was cast in a bunch of musicals. I begged my parents to let me quit violin for voice lessons. They were fine with that. I won some singing contests, so I sang my way into Northwestern University.

Ana Gasteyer in New York in 2022, above, and, left, with her brother, Stephen, on the Mackinac Island ferry, 1972. Top right, in 'American Auto.'

At Northwestern, I arrived as a vocal performance major but soon shifted to speech and drama. Then I was cast in the Mee-Ow Show, the campus improv group. Finally, human beings who thought and behaved the way I did. We constantly wrote and created inside and outside the classroom.

I met my best friend, Jill Cargerman—now a TV producer and writer—at Northwestern during the Mee-Ow Show. One night, frustrated by the lack of material our cast had come up with, we pulled an all-nighter and wrote five sketches.

My life changed. I realized I could write comedy and control my career.

After graduation in 1989, I moved to Los Angeles. A former roommate had become a voice-over agent and wanted me to do commercials. I joined the union, booked a radio ad for the Wienerschnitzel chain and made $300. I may as well have won an Academy Award.

Then I worked my way up to the main company of the Groundlings, L.A.'s famous improv-sketch troupe. Small parts followed on TV dramas and sitcoms.

In 1996, I was spotted during one of our Groundlings shows and cast on "Saturday Night Live." I

remained there for six seasons, where I created lots of recurring characters and impersonated Martha Stewart and Celine Dion, among others.

Today, my husband, Charlie, and I live with our son in L.A. while I'm shooting "American Auto." I love our L.A. apartment. It's in a historic Art Deco building and the light is incredible. In New York, we live in Brooklyn's Dumbo section. We've been there since 2002.

I miss our Dumbo apartment. It smells like all the things I cook well—a combination of cinnamon, cumin and nutmeg. It reminds me of coming home from school as a kid.

—As told to Marc Myers

Ana Gasteyer, 56, is an actress, comedian and singer best known for her work on "Saturday Night Live," from 1996 to 2002. She currently stars in the NBC sitcom "American Auto."

ANA'S ATMOSPHERE

Home priority? I take seating seriously.

Why? Because my mother doesn't. She enjoys thrift-store finds, which are charming but miserable to sit on.

For example? She has a vintage barber's chair from the 1800s. Not a great place to read the paper.

Fave seats? English pub stools at our kitchen counter.

Home quirk? I'm constantly organizing and labeling and tubbing. I have a lot going on and hate having my time wasted looking for things.

FROM LEFT: ANA GASTEYER (FAMILY PHOTO); TINA TURNBOW; RON BATZDORFF/NBC